

THE ALABAMA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

PETER A. BRANNON, *Editor*



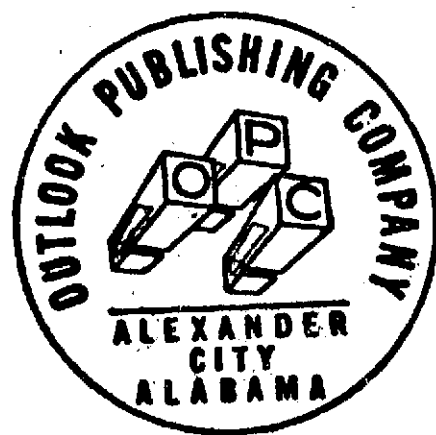
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THE BOWIE LETTERS, 1819 and 1821

Edited by Virginia K. Jones

Deposited in the Alabama Department of Archives and History is a small collection of Bowie papers. The earliest of these were written when Alabama was a territory, and they relate graphically to the period of the acquisition of the Floridas. The Bowie family is closely connected with many names and families, both in Alabama history and also living here today.

In 1819 there lived in Abbeville County, Major John Bowie,¹ a native of Scotland, who had spent fifty of his seventy-nine years in South Carolina, where on Long Cane River he had become a prosperous planter and a prominent citizen. For many years his sons had remained in the neighborhood of Abbeville. Andrew had engaged in a large wholesale dry goods business in Charleston before his death in 1808. His widow lived with her father-in-law and for nineteen years nursed him as tenderly as a daughter. William, long a bachelor, was a merchant in business with his nephew. Samuel was a cotton planter and lived near Abbeville with his wife and baby. Alexander, the youngest son, was practicing law in Abbeville.

John, however, after serving as an officer in the South Carolina Militia, and after achieving some prominence in local politics, had moved to St. Stephens in the Alabama Territory with his wife, Sarah Harwell, and their daughter, Sarah. A son, George John Bowie, was born in 1819, probably in the new territory.² George Bowie, who wrote the earliest letters, was forty-seven years old, and was one of the leading lawyers of South Carolina. John C. Calhoun had been a student in the office of George Bowie in Abbeville. Much respected for his great legal knowledge and long career, he was usually called "Judge" Bowie.

¹Information about the Bowie family is taken from the book *The Bowies and their Kindred*, by Walter Worthington Bowie, published in Washington, Cromwell Brothers, 1899.

²Palmer's *Register of the Officers and Students of the University of Alabama, 1831-1901* on page 54 gives this information about "baby George": "Bowie, George John. Planter; Caney, Texas; left University as Sophomore, 1837; Matriculated 1836, from Cahaba; Born 1819, son of John Bowie & Sarah Harwell; Married Jan. 4, 1843 Frances Sophia Milhouse; Enlisted as 1st Lieut. C. S. A.; Died Sept. 6, 1861."

By 1819 George was anxious to follow the example of his brother John and move to new territory. Both Alabama and West Florida appeared to present opportunities, and the Judge seems to have acquired some property in each. Pensacola offered most attractive prospects for an experienced lawyer. However there were obstacles in the way of the move to Florida.

The treaty with Spain for the acquisition of the Floridas had been approved by the United States Senate in March of 1819. John Forsyth of Georgia had been appointed Minister to Spain and was given instructions to urge early action on the treaty. Still Spain delayed the ratification.

George Bowie made preparations to move his family to Pensacola, and he wrote of his plans in a letter addressed to his brother, Capt. John Bowie, St. Stephens, Alabama Territory.

Abbeville S^o C^a Aug.^t 24th 1819

Dear John,

Our last Mail brought us news of the arival of the Hornet, (the vessel that took Mr Forsyth to Spain) and that the Treaty was not ratified on the 22nd June and doubts are entertained whether it will. This deranged my plans very much & I have by this Mail sent Shackleford a power of attorney to sell my house and lott in Pensacola and take up my notes in Bank—This I hope he will be able to do; but if this should fail I have requested him to advance some money to you for that business on account of Barker's Jud.^t If you could see him on this subject It would be well—If the Treaty is ratified I can make all things easy, but if not it will prevent my selling my land and some other property, and thus make the collection of money more difficult. I never knew money dearer than at present, crops are good & I hope we will get 18 or 20 for our cotton I shall move if the treaty is confirmed—and at all events will be on in Nov.^r myself—If my house is sold I can get one to rent for awhile—

I wrote you so fully lately that I need not add more at present—All friends are quite well—

Give my love to Sister & little George

Yours affectionately

Geo Bowie

Although mail service was slow and not always regular between Abbeville and St. Stephens, George Bowie heard enough news from the Tombigbee country to make him vacilate between Florida and Alabama as a future home. He knew many of the settlers of the Alabama Territory. Besides the family of Brother John and his wife's people, the Harwells in Clarke County, there were the cousins of George's wife, Israel and Samuel Pickens.³ Israel Pickens was Register of the Land Office at St. Stephens and represented Washington County in the Constitutional Convention of 1819. Samuel Pickens became Comptroller when the state government was established.

By the end of September George Bowie, his wife Margaret Pickens, and their eighteen year old daughter Louisa were weary of the strain of waiting for the news which would start their move to Pensacola. George answered a letter that he received from John.

Abbeville S.^o C.^a Sept.^r 29th 1819

Dear John

Yours of the 6th instant reached me on yesterday and I hasten to answer it by return Mail—I have written to you once or twice since the one you say you have rec.^d—In my last I stated that I had authorised Shackelford to sell my house and lott in Pensacola; not that I intend to abandon my removal, but to clear off everything with the B—I am glad you have made the first removal I shall be prepared for the move I hope through Mr Shackelford—

Never was I in such suspence before. I watch every post and can get nothing but vague reports as to the Treaty—they all concur in saying it will be ratified—If the Ratification arives soon I still hope late as it is to be able to move this fall with my family at all events I will be on Nov^r myself

I hear I have a good crop on Alabama but that corn will not sell for more than 50 Cts As to what Israel Pickens mentioned to you you will give my Complements to him and tell him I will accept an appointment on the Bench if elected—but that I do not wish my name used in a doubtful case this I leave to his discretion. Altho my views have been directed to Florida yet it will

³Israel and Samuel Pickens' grandfather, *Israel*, and Margaret (Pickens) Bowie's grandfather, *Andrew* were brothers, sons of William Pickens.

be no great sacrifice to change them to your State which I will do if appointed as he wishes show him this which is all I can say on the subject—

I never saw finer crops than we have this season tho' cotton is some what injured with the wet weather—not so heavy boiled—Some neighborhoods in this District as Cambridge Long Cane &c are very sickly but not very mortal—We are very healthy in this part of the Country, and all our friends are well—Father enjoys surprising good health for his age—We have no news, nor no new *turn ups* worth your notice—

Yours affectionately

Geo Bowie

The third letter in the Bowie Papers, dated June 18, 1821, was written by Louisa, only child of George Bowie and Margaret Pickens. Louisa's letter contains a wealth of detail. Though she wrote for the perusal of no one except her cousin, the recipient, we find much historical interest in almost every name and situation she mentions.

Many things had happened during the two year period between letters. Captain John Bowie had died February 14, 1821, leaving his family in St. Stephens. On February 22 the exchange of ratifications of the treaty with Spain was proclaimed by President Monroe. General Andrew Jackson was appointed Commissioner to take possession of East and West Florida, and Governor of the united territory, March 10, 1821.

George Bowie had awaited news of the *Hornet*⁴ in the summer of 1819. Louisa writes, two years later of the thrill of seeing the once again long waited *Hornet* entering Pensacola Bay. This time that Sloop of War, the *Hornet*, had conveyed from New York to the Spanish Governor General on the Island of Cuba, the order from his Government for the delivery of the Provinces of East and West Florida to the officers of the United States duly appointed to receive them. The *Hornet* was then to bring the Spanish Officer with the official

⁴The sloop 'Hornet' had an adventurous career in the War of 1812. Commanded by Captain James Lawrence, she sank the British brig "Peacock" Feb. 24, 1813, and under Captain James Biddle, after scuttling the brig "Penquin" March 23, 1815, the 'Hornet' barely escaped from the heavy line-of-battleship "Cornwallis" in the Indian Ocean, and arrived in New York harbor June 9, 1815.

order of transfer of authority to Pensacola, where notice was to be sent by express, by way of Blakely, to General Jackson at Montpelier, that he might come to Pensacola to receive possession. Montpelier⁵ was a Cantonment built in 1817, a few miles northeast of Camp Montgomery, located ten of twelve miles above the confluence of the Tombigbee and Alabama Rivers. The Hornet's arrival in Pensacola Bay, described by Louisa, occurred the evening of June 9, and on June 16 Jackson arrived near town, stopping at the place then known as the Fifteen Mile House, where Mr. Manuel Gonzalez had his cattle ranch.

Louisa met Judge Henry M. Brackenridge, who served as Jackson's secretary and translator, and who in 1822 would be appointed by President Monroe to the position of territorial judge of West Florida. Dr. Brannon, whom she identifies as head of General Jackson's staff, probably was Dr. J. C. Bronaugh of Virginia, assistant surgeon of the army in 1818, honorably discharged June 1, 1821, and Governor Jackson's private secretary. He became President of the first Legislative Council, and died of yellow fever in August, 1822. The Captain of the Hornet was George C. Read. Captain Call, General Jackson's aide-de-camp, was Richard Keith Call, who had left his studies in Tennessee to join the expedition against the Creeks and later volunteered for service under Jackson, with whom he served at Pensacola, the battle of New Orleans, and the campaign against the Seminoles in 1818. After the transfer of Pensacola in 1821, he served as Acting Secretary of West Florida, and in 1836, Jackson, as President, appointed Call Governor of the Florida Territory.

The neighbor opposite, Mr. Wilson, was Henry Wilson, Consul at Nantes in 1819, a justice of the peace in Pensacola, July 1821.

Here is Louisa's letter:

Pensacola June 18th 1821.

After arriving My Dear Cousin, (at the celebrated place, Pensacola,) and labouring under great inconveniences, I attempt giving you a short account of our journey.

We arrived here the 4th of June, after a journey of 5 weeks, and found a very dirty house and yard, we have not yet got them clean.

⁵In 1960, the residence of Mr. Frank Earle. Fort Montgomery was later Montgomery Hill, and is locally known as Tensas Post Office.

I don't think I ever saw a dirtier house, the walls were once white washed but now they are more like a yellow wash; we cannot get any furniture here it is very scarce, what is, is very extravagant, chairs such as your yellow ones are 25 \$ a dozen there is a set here, which is 70 \$ a dozen. I do not think them as neat as those at 25.

Our opposite Neighbour has been very kind and lent us chairs, and offered us anything else we wished; there names are Wilson, he was for many years an American consul to Nantes, he was born and raised in Baltimore, at the age of 25, he went to Paris, and there married a French lady, she is of the Bourborn family, and a very dignified and handsome woman. She was very much opposed to leaving France, they came here 6 months ago, they have 3 children, a daughter and 2 sons their Daughter was married 6 weeks ago to a Frenchman that came out with them, he cannot speak English, all the rest of the family do. Mr Wilson in 1810 was worth 100,000 \$ but was very unfortunate, not being able to live in the style he had been accustomed to in France, he came to this country, he has purchased land about 8 leagues from here and intends moving there as soon as they build, the old gentleman is in the country at this time, his Son and Son-in-law are here.

Our next door Neighbours are a Mr Long⁶ he once lived in Abbeville, over where M.^r *Chrenshaw* formerly lived, they came here from Claiborne, he is a carpenter, and made us a pine table, which answers our purpose very well. Our other Neighbours are Spaniards, we have nothing to do with them, they all speak nothing but Spanish.

Mother cannot do without a garden, the day after we got here she had the yard clean'd out, it is very small, but it answer'd the purpose of a small garden. Ma has planted beans, peas, cucumbers, tomattoeses, cabages, radishes and some other things, the weather has been so very bad, I am very much afraid the garden will not do well. We have 2 grape Arbours in the yard; the vines are tolerably full of fruit, they would have been more so but not being attended to for so long they have been destroy'd. we have 4 or 5 peach trees. they have some peaches on them, there are also plumbs and pom-

⁶Mr. Long might be either Joseph Long or William Long. Joseph Long, in the fall of 1817, signed a petition from the citizens of Clarke, Monroe, Washington, Mobile and Baldwin counties in the Alabama Territory. A letter addressed to William Long was unclaimed in Claiborne, Dec. 31, 1818.—Carter, *Territorial Papers of the United States*, v. 18, Alabama Territory, p. 197, 539.

granites the latter has fruit, the former has none, there are several orange bushes in the yard, I believe they are sour.

I will give you a short discription of our house. it has four rooms they are of a tolerable size, excepting the breakfast room which is small; 2 piazzas; in the end of the back one, there is a Pantry, under that is a dairy; the front Piazza is about the size of yours, the distance between that and the pailings is the same as yours, instead of poplars we have Altheas they are the tallest I ever saw and reach considerably beyond the eaves of the house, at the corner of the Piazza there is a large fig tree, not very full of fruit the first crop was killed with the frost, which destroyed a great deal of fruit.

When we came here we found Cousin A Simpson, here, he had come over to see what was going on and wait to get into business, he stays with us while he is here. Uncle & Aunt Simpson, and the girls came up a day or 2 ago Aunt and the girls are here now, they are quite well, and better pleased with their situation than they were at first, Aunt Simpson, was never here before, you can come from there here in 3 hours if the wind is fair. I think Aunt and the girls look better than I ever saw them. I have never been there yet. We arrived here on Monday, the Wednesday after, Col.¹ Jones, and family, old and young M.^r Howard and family and Miss Bostick, with several other gentlemen from Miledgeville came here to see the place. the gentlemen wished to purchase here, and they wished their wives to see and judge for themselves. Dr. Brannon (who is at the head of General Jackson's staff) and Judge Brackenridge from Tennessee, passed us on the road, coming to Pensacola, from Mont-pelier, to attend to furnishing a house for General Jackson. they became acquainted with the Milegeville ladys, and formed a party to go to the Barancas in the Schooner Thomas Shields, commanded by Capt.ⁿ Smiley, they came here the evening before and invited us to go with them. Mother could not go. I disliked to go as the ladys were all strangers to me, however as Father was going, and I never expected to have the opportunity, in so good a vessel to go a sailing, I went. we spent the day out on the water, had a very nice dinner on board, for a desert we had plumb pudding. we went to the Barancas, to St Rose's island. we intended crossing the breakers and going out into Sea, but to our surprise and pleasure, we met the Hornet, that had been so long looked for in vain. Captain Call, Gen.¹ Jackson's Aide-camp was with us. he with the rest of the gentlemen were very much pleased. When the Hornet came near enough to us the gentlemen that were so much interested went on board; after they returned,

Captain Reid gave us an elegant band of Music, we turned with the Hornet, and came into Pensacola an hour before sun-down. altogether we had sailed 20 miles the moment they saw the Hornet they lowered the Spanish flag it was very pleasant sailing quite new to me, there was great rejoicing in Pensacola an express was immediately dispatched to Gen^l Jackson. I found the ladys much more friendly than I expected; they insisted on my calling to see them. I did not feel the inclination to call and see any strangers, besides we were not fixed to see strangers, however they insisted so much I went. they were very sociable. Miss Bostick is a very pretty girl; they invited me to go with them to ride to the Brick yard. we went and spent the day there they insisted so much I could not get off. I had a beautiful view of the Bay, we were at 2 Spanish houses at one they had a beautiful garden.

There as a party formed day-before yesterday to go on board the Hornet. After dinner Aunt Simpson, Father, Mother, Leah, Rebecca, Andrew and myself went down to the beach. The company from Georgia joined us all together the company was large. we went out to the ship in two boats belonging to the Hornet. when we reached the ship, an arm'd chair well fixed and fastened to ropes was let down by the Sailors, which drew us up perfectly easy and safe, there was a piece of clothes to confine our feet, the vessel was as clean and neat as possible. I had very little idea of a man-of-war. the deck was as clean as it could be, the Captain said while he was in Havana, owing to the sickness in that place, he was obliged to have his vessel kept very clean, and the deck scoured every day.

The Captain explained and showed every thing to us, he was very obliging, we had music all the time we were there, when we went into the cabin, he had wine and cordial handed round, we returned home in very good time.

I have, my Dear Cousin, been giving you a history of myself and how I have been spending my time, and have never yet asked about the health of my Abbeville friends. I am very anxious to hear of their welfare. I thought while I was writing I would give you an account of how I had been spending my time, you I suppose, My Dear Cousin, are anxious to know how we like Pensacola, we have not been here long enough to judge how we will like it. it is at this time a very unpleasant place, there are very few Americans here as yet, that is family's, there is a number of gentlemen here, but as yet the lowest class of Americans, as soon as the government changes, the town will be very crowded, houses are at this time in great demand, houses that

are only one story with four or five rooms in them rent at 50, 60 and 70 \$. M.^r Wilson pays 50 for his, which is very much confined. I should have said 50 a month.

Our house is very much like yours before it was altered, only wider. I told you at the commencement of my letter I would give you a short account of our journey, but I kept a journal on the road, if I do not send it to you this time, I will again, to let you see what kind of a journey we had. Father goes to St Stevens tomorrow to see Aunt Sarah, (Uncle J. Bowie's) widow, he will also be at Claiborne. We so seldom know when there is an opportunity of sending our letters there (as it is the only way we will have of getting letters to you.) I wish to write several by him, therefore, My Dear Cousin, you must look over the errors with a friendly eye, as I see there is many, this letter is written for the persual of no one but yourself. I can assure you, My Dear Cousin, I often think of you and the children and my other Abbeville friends, and would be delighted to see any of you here.

So concludes the letter of Louisa Bowie, and would that we possessed more from her pen.

During the same summer that Louisa was writing her letter to her cousin in Abbeville, anther new-comer was writing from West Florida to her friend in Nashville, Tennessee. The two writers differed widely in age, in experience and in temperament; their letters are remarkable in both contrast and similarity.

At about the same time that Judge Bowie and his family were making the move to Pensacola, the Jackson family were traveling, by tedious stages for the same destination. General Jackson had left the Hermitage on April 18, accompanied by Mrs. Jackson and the two Andrews (his adopted son and his nephew, Andrew Jackson Donelson). After a stay in New Orleans, the General resumed the journey to Montpelier, Alabama, where he had been ordered to await the arrival of Colonel Forbes from Havana. The party reached Blakeley April 29, and Montpelier early in May, and from there the General addressed his farewell to the army, dated May 31.

Several miles from the Cantonment was the plantation of William Weatherford of Creek War fame. Campbell, in "Colonial Florida",⁷

⁷R. L. Campbell, *Historical Sketches of Colonial Florida*. p. 269

relates that at Jackson's suggestion, Lt-Colonel George M. Brooke, Commandant at Montpelier, invited Weatherford to dine at the Post. When the guest arrived, Jackson greeted his old time enemy very cordially and graciously presented him to Mrs. Jackson and the company as "the bravest man of his tribe."

Several weeks later the Jacksons were in the vicinity of Pensacola. From the Fifteen-Mile-House on June 21, Mrs. Jackson wrote to her friend Mrs. Eliza Kingsley in Nashville. Here are the observations of Mrs. Jackson.

I will now give you an account of our journey to this place. We took shipping on Lake Pontchartrain, crossing the Gulf Stream, and landed at Mobile Bay, at a town known by the name of Blakely. There we tarried nine days. From thence we went to Mont-Pelier. There we tarried *five weeks*, waiting the arrival of the Hornet, that went with dispatches to the Governor General of Cuba on this Florida business. At length she arrived, and we set out for Pensacola, and are now within fifteen miles of that place. The General and the Spanish governor are negotiating the business. We are at a Spanish gentleman's, waiting the exchanging of flags, and then we go into the city of contention. Oh, how they dislike the idea! They are going to the Havana—don't like the Americans, nor the government.

Oh, how shall I make you sensible of what a heathen land I am in? Never but once have I heard a Gospel sermon, nor the song of Zion sounded in my ear. . . . The Sabbath entirely neglected and profaned. The regiment at Mount P., where we stayed five weeks, were no better than the Spaniards at this place. I was twice at the memorable Fort Mims, Fort Montgomery, near the Alabama. Stayed two nights with Mrs. Mims; she is an intelligent woman in wordly affairs. Every step I have traveled on land is a bed of white sand; no other timber than long-leaf pine on the rivers, the liveoak and magnolia. The most oderiferous flower grows on them I ever saw. Believe me, this country has been greatly overrated. The land produces nothing but sweet potatoes and yams. One acre of our fine Tennessee land is worth a thousand.

The General, I believe, wants to get home again as much as I do. He says to Captain Kingsley he will write to him so soon as he reaches Pensacola. We have the best house

in town, I am told, and furnished. Dr. Bronaugh attends to it until the exchange of flags.⁸

Mrs. Jackson wrote to her friends again on July 23. After picturing the ceremony of the exchange of flags she describes the city, noting many of the items mentioned by Louisa Bowie.

I will give you a faint description of the country and of this place; knowing that my dear friend will throw a veil over my errors and imperfections. I. Pensacola is a perfect plain; the land nearly as white as flour, yet productive of fine peach trees, oranges in abundance, grapes, figs, pomegranates, etc., etc. Fine flowers growing spontaneously, for they have neglected the gardens, expecting a change of government. The town is immediately on the bay. The most beautiful water prospect I ever saw; and from ten o'clock in the morning until ten at night we have the finest sea breeze. There is something in it so exhilarating, so pure, so wholesome, it enlivens the whole system. All the houses look in ruins, old as time. Many squares of the town appear grown over with the thickest shrubs, weeping willows, and the Pride of China; all look neglected. The inhabitants all speak Spanish and French. Some speak four or five languages. Such a mixed multitude, you, nor any of us, ever had an idea of

There is a Catholic church in the place, and the priest seems a divine looking man. He comes to see us. He dined with us yesterday, the Governor, and the Secretary, French, Spanish, American ladies, and all. I have as pleasant a house as any in town.

We have a handsome view of the bay on Main Street. You will scarcely believe me, but it is a fact, the vessels are daily coming in loaded with people. The place is nearly full; a great many comes for their health. It is very healthy—so pure and wholesome. No fields of corn or wheat in all my travels, except one place near Mount-Pelier. The growth entirely pine, some live-oaks, magnolia, bay, which are all evergreens.⁹

⁸James Parton, *Life of Andrew Jackson*. v. 2, p. 597-598.

⁹*Ibid.*, p. 605-606.

Century old Pensacola, a typical Spanish town when the American flag displaced the Spanish flag, had about 2,000 residents, and enjoyed a considerable commercial life. During the first harvest season after Florida came into American possession, cotton from Alabama and Mississippi began to arrive by wagon and ox carts. In the fall of 1821 cotton sold for an average of about fifteen cents per pound, and with money being paid out in large sums for the cotton, the merchants of the thriving little town became prosperous.

Property rapidly increased in value and speculators rushed to Pensacola from far and wide although many Spanish left the city as the Americans came in. But Pensacola's prosperity was temporarily halted in the summer of 1822 when a dreadful scourge of yellow fever left the city all but destitute. By 1823 the city was reduced to about 1,200 inhabitants. The ravages of the fever subsided after about six months and never again was Pensacola visited by such an epidemic.¹⁰

Pensacola seemed to offer so many opportunities to the experienced lawyer from Abbeville. When Governor Jackson organized the temporary government, George Bowie was commissioned Mayor of Pensacola, July 19, 1821. Later Judge Bowie held court, once severely censuring the conduct of the United States District Attorney, William F. Steele, who was acting as prosecutor.

But Florida did not long remain the home of the George Bowie family. On December 30, 1823, Louisa Augusta Bowie was married to William S. Smith, clerk of the court at Charleston, South Carolina, and a lawyer by profession. They had six children, one of whom, George Waring Smith, married Charlotte Hamilton, whose father, Peter Hamilton, was a noted lawyer at Mobile.

On March 30, 1824, William F. Steele wrote to Washington of Judge Bowie as "the late Judge of the County Court of Escambia who now resides at a distance without the limits of this Territory." And so, in the end, Alabama became the home of George Bowie, his brother Alexander, several of his nephews, and many descendants. George Bowie moved to Alabama, lived for awhile in Selma, and then on his plantation near Cahawba, in Dallas County, where he died in 1864, aged 92.

¹⁰S. M. Martin, *Florida during the Territorial Days*. p. 165-167.

Andrew Bowie's eldest son, John, moved to Mobile in 1838, and purchased a plantation called "White Hall" near that city for his summer residence. Because his health was not good he moved his family to Dayton, in Marengo County, where he died of malarial fever in 1846. His daughter, Rosa, married William L. Wadsworth, and their descendants are well-known in central Alabama and in Birmingham.

Andrew Bowie's second son, Samuel Watts, moved to Lowndes County, Alabama, and practiced medicine until his death in 1881. Many of his descendants are living in Lowndes, Dallas and Wilcox counties.

Alexander Bowie, youngest brother of Judge George Bowie, moved to Talladega, Alabama, in 1835, and two years later was elected Chancellor of the Northern District of Alabama. He was a trustee of the University, assisted in founding the Alabama Historical Society, and in 1850 was its first president. Alexander had ten children; two of his daughters married men of the Knox family. Mary Jane Bowie married Dr. James C. Knox of Talladega, and her sister Margaret Rose married William W. Knox, an attorney. Another sister married Jabez L. M. Curry, Minister to Spain during President Cleveland's administration, and general agent of the Peabody and Slater educational funds.

ALABAMA NOTES

Made in 1883-1884

Description of Towns, Indian Mounds, Forts. Tuscaloosa, Mounds near Blakely, Montgomery, etc.

By

Dr. Edward Palmer*

(During 1883 and 1884, Dr. Palmer, an investigator for the Bureau of American Ethnology, did archaeological research in Alabama. His original field notes apparently made for the purpose of making his report to Prof. S. F. Baird, are filed in the Department of Archives and History. These notes were bought some years ago at an auction held in Cincinnati. They contain references to his investigations of Indian town sites, old military forts, and his comments on several Alabama towns make a very interesting picture of what he interpreted conditions of that time. Dr. Palmer refers several times to his visit to Blakely, Early County, Alabama, and also to Blakely, in Baldwin County, Ala. It is quite evident that he has reference to the Kolomoki group of mounds in Early County, Ga. These notes are embodied along with his Alabama references. The reader will find that from time to time he has entered that certain persons at certain places are due the thanks of the National Museum. Obviously, the collected items which Dr. Palmer accumulated during his visit here were shipped to Washington and are now in the collections of the National Museum, though so far as I know I have never identified any of them. In publishing Dr. Palmer's notes, an attempt has been made to organize the reference to the several localities into one collected group, though there are overlaps so it is not possible to get all the references immediately together. He seems to have visited some points twice. Ed.)

Greenville—

Tenn.

Left Washington June 30-1881 at 7 a. m. and arrived at Greenville Tenn. at Midnight. I presented a letter of introduction from Prof. Baird to Hon. A. H. Pettibone member of Congress from this district.

I visited the tailor shop of Andrew Johnson

Near the centre of the town is his house used during his prosperity. The willow trees by the spring in his garden, by which his

mother & he camped on their arrival here are still standing. These trees are from a twig brought by Admiral Wilks from St. Helena & given to Johnson. The monument erected to him & his wife by his daughters is of marble & granite & made in Philadelphia. His 3 sons lie buried here. One was a doctor, the other a colonel of the volunteer troops of Tenn. The former died from drink, the latter was thrown from his horse while under the influence of drink the horse being frightened by a locomotive. The youngest son of the three, Andrew Johnson, died directly of drink at the age of 23 years, leaving a widow who has erected a fine marble canopy over his remains. There is no direct male heir of the Johnsons.

The report of the assassination of President Garfield created a profound sensation. The fear was that it was a political assassination. Political significance was at once given against Conklin & Co.

Greenville has 100 to 1200 inhabitants of whom 11 are ministers, 5 doctors, 9 layers, & 1 blacksmith & 1 dentist.

Edwards' Academy (United Brethern) is located in the residence of Dr. Williams. In the garden Forest was killed. The first steam thrasher passed through the streets and created quite an excitement.

County Court is in session—

By custom the first Monday of every month is horse trading day & as the court meets affords a fine opportunity. In troops they congregate to discuss the merits of horse flesh—Strangers would think they were getting together from their respective districts so as to go home together. Some one starts them and finally slowly & easily as if in no hurry, the crowd goes. Whisky is amoung them.

Aug 8th—81—

The colored people celebrated the emancipation proclamation. A preacher was said to have caused the split, causing part of the people to celebrate at a new place—

The corporation gave up its charter so as to get rid of the whisky shop license

An Irish woman defies the law and female prayers until she has been several times convicted.

The side walks are abominable & the streets filthy. Before the Rail-Roads this was a thriving place—now it is tottering under decay—

Bridgeport Jackson Co. Alab

27 Ap—1882 *Shell Mounds*

Bridgeport is on the Tennesse River the river Split hear and run on each side of a large Island

The Rail Road has two bridges So as to cross it

There is numerous Shell mounds on this Island—much reduced in Size. At the upper end of this Island is a large broad top mound 50 feet high— $\frac{1}{2}$ acre on top planted with fruit trees and grass so could not open it—Two other smaller mounds near had been so much disturbed that I did not think them worth further research Near these a few years Since a large grave yard Settlement was unearth by the flood and many fine things exposed which are all scattered.

By Rail from Chattanooga via
Decatur Ala. to Blount Springs,
& thence to Blountville Ala.

1883—

A miserable \$2 a day hotel by R. R. with a saloon.

Blount Springs a quiet mountain resort for chronic complaints—the only chance to get to Blountville 16 miles distant was by hiring a hack for \$4 a great price.

Blountville has square brick court house—untidy streets, & slowing going people calculated to call your attention to other more thrifty places—buildings empty—

As usual the colored & whites find time to attend all celebrations, despite crops & future wants.—

Safely housed in the only hotel in town—The gentleman Frank Burns, whom I come to see was absent—with letter from Prof. Baird who had corresponded with him—

BLOUNT SPRINGS,
ALABAMA.

Directly On the Line of the Louisville
and Nashville Railroad.

This noted SUMMER AND WINTER RESORT has been leased for a term of years by the undersigned, and will be kept.

OPEN THE YEAR ROUND.

For the alleviation and permanent cure of all diseases of the kidneys and liver and bowels, gout, rheumatism, neuralgia and all blood diseases, chronic or otherwise, these waters have no superior, on this or the European continent.

In the management of the hotel I shall endeavor to maintain my well earned reputation as a host. Major Oscar F. Hickle, of New Orleans, will preside in the office.

Reference by permission to Col. Robert N. Ogden, Col. Thos. L. Alfrey, H. G. Hester, Esq., Secretary Cotton Exchange, and Dr. Joseph T. Scott, of New Orleans. For descriptive pamphlet and terms address the undersigned at Blount Springs.

CHAS. E. SMEDES, Agent,

Sole Proprietor.

Alab Caves & C 1883

A partial copy of a letter from Frank Burns. Blountsville, Ala. to Prof. S. F. Baird.

I have been about a good deal lately looking around and gathering up information and a few relics—I shall start today again to go as far as Guntersville on the Tennessee river to examine a very large mound there. I have been very much interested in this country in something I never saw any where else viz. That the *Indians buried some of their dead in rock houses*. That is under the Sandstone cliffs—I went on a trip as far west as Blackwater Creek in Walker County, Ala, 50 miles from here, and on that trip I visited a good many rock houses, and found bones in six of them. I also visited the old Indian town of the Creeks at the junction of the Mulberry and Sipsev rivers, this is a noted place in this section as Gen. Coffee burns the town and killed the Chief of the Black Warrior Creeks there. I obtained a few relics, among which is a piece of a green barrel, dug out of an Indian grave that is doubtedly one hundred years old or more. This old town would be a good place to dig some at the graves. I also heard of other places up the Sipsev river that will do to dig at under some rock houses as copper beads have been found there. I went up to Etowah County to look after a *Copper Chisel* that was dug out of a mound there a few years ago, but it was destroyed. The copper implements made of Native Copper have been of great interest to

me as I have been used to Indian relicts all my life, and have never seen nor heard of any in this Country before. They have been found in three places in this section that I know of.

I will be glad to see your expert cave digger when he comes, and will give him all the information I can. There are a number of large caves here, and it may be possible to find something. I am going to try to do so. My best judgment is that the Crump Cave had had all the digging that it will bear, until a new place is opened in it. I think it is a big thing somewhere then I believe that other entrances are stopped up.

I visited the largest mound in this country last week, prepared to go through it, but got the information desired from two men who had dug it up.

—Mounds—

I have visited 12 mounds last week in Bristow caves in Etowah and Murphrees valey in Blount County the largest of these mounds had been dug into by Mess Bynum and Goin two farmers in the neighborhood. This mound was originally about 12 feet high it is now above 7 feet high, and 30 feet in diameter, about half the way around it at the bottom was a wall of stove about 1½ feet high with a vacancy of three feet it was then heaped up with earth and a passage was cut as the vacancy in the rock to the center of the mound which was a jug shaped cavity about five feet in diameter at the bottom. This cavity seemed to have been constructed by wetting and mauling the dirt until it was hard and firm. up at the top there was a small opening similarly made that led to the outside, about five inches in diameter. The walls of the entrance from the bottom were similarly made and when the mound was opened loose dirt filled up all cavities, but it was easily shoveled out. There was no ashes or coals or debris of that kind in the mound nor was any relics ever found about it. The digging was done with the level of the surrounding soil.

F. B.

Dr. Jackson

Dear Sir

Permit me to introduce to your acquaintance Dr Palmer of the Bureau of Ethnology at Washington Any Information given or courtesies extended to him will be duly appreciated by

yours verry truly

Frank Burn

State Geol. Survey,
of Alabama

STATE OF ALABAMA
BLOUNT COUNTY

SEAL

ROOMS OF FRANK BURNS, GEOLOGIST,
BLOUNTVILLE, ALABAMA.

1883

10 miles above Guntersville there was an Indian Town of Creeks and Cherokees of course this was after U. S. government this place is called Meltonville John G. Winston Sen., will give infermation. David Sultzer 2 years age had some "relics" 2 or 3 pieces of Gun Barell and other relics, they were obtained on Pine Island.

There was a washout on Pine Island and a lot of bones and relics was uneartherd.

Old Captain Simpson Bain Sen. knows all things in this Section There is caves in the mountains, and there was Indian Towns on Winston Plantation

At Culberts in 2½ miles of Meltonville there is "relics" interesting there may be baskets there—

My friend tells me that you can get a number of things there but I have no unlimited confidence in statements of *friends*.

Blount Springs—

Alabama

May 19—83—The Hotel Jackson here claims to be first class but it is very poor, bad fare poorly cooked & served, waiters indifferent—nothing neat or polished—lacked nicety of detail, Dirt meets the eye inside & out—About the springs it is filthy—A good place for fast people

—Plenty of house room— unless more attention is bestowed upon the sick than upon the well visitors it certainly is a very poor place for comforts. A fair return is not given for your money—you are not made to feel at home—a dirty pitcher of water in your room—There is the outward appearance without the reality.

Col. J. F. B. Jackson built the hotel which is owned by the Springs—

Crumps Cave 15 miles South of
Blountsville Alabama.*

1883—

Uriah, John, & Gabriel Crump have a copper chisel & a curious cross like ornament, a bone one with 2 large shell drinking cups that came out of the cave. The cave is about 73 yards long, strait but narrow to the end. The entrance is large enough to admit living & dead Indians who were buried here in troughs covered with matting & bound with withes. Some seem to have been from naturally hollow trees others burnt out. There were placed in a crevice in the back part of the cave—this was 20 ft. long—many bowls & trays of wood, were with the bodice—

A second cave but smaller—no remains near the large one has one low wide, room—

Dined at Crump's cave—Green peas & wild strawberry pie.

*The National Museum issued as one of the bulletins in 1884, a separate titled "Crump's Burial Cave, Alabama." This small brochure is one of the rarest of the National Museum publications. Dr. Palmer's notes here are additional to the data brought out in his scientific report and published under the above title.

Caves near Blountville Alabama*
Hendricks Cave

1883—

1

Hendricks' Cave 2 miles South of Blountville—It had naturally a small entrance enlarged to make room for trainway—

*This reference to Blountsville is in keeping with the reputation of the old hotel there. Note should be made to the steamboat trip. In later years the trains which ran from Memphis through Decatur, ran on a flat boat near Whitesburg and even today the ferry boat which puts trains across the rivers makes the trip on to Gunterville. Dr. Palmer's reference to "Mayor Solomon Palmer" is interesting. Hon. Solomon Palmer was subsequently to this date State Superintendent of Education.

Caves near Blountville Alabama.

Dixon's Cave.

1883—

After leaving Crumps Cave stopped over night at Abraham, Harris 33 miles from Blountsville near Balin P. O. A thrifty hard working farmer—Passed a wet cave in Murphy's Valley, near P. O. of same name—6 miles from night halt—no Indian remains a naturally small entrance.

Then came to Dixon's Cave on the farm Alvin O. Dixon 8 miles N. from Murphy's P. O. Very wet cave with a naturally small entrance enlarged to admit entrance of a stream of water to near the roof & sometimes runs through the cave—too wet even for bats to live in—Dined here—the dinner poor though a large form with apparently plenty.

Mahaffey's Caves 9 miles N. E. of Dixon's
& Great Southern Cave Ala.

1883

These caves are near the Big Spring Marshall Co. Ala. naturally small entrances, one wet & full of fine stalactities—the other dry—tramway made to these

1883

Great Southern Cave near Bangor.

Station 4 miles of Blount Springs A very long & irregular cave—The entrance enlarged to convert cave in a dance & lager beer hall—for which it was for sometime used. On the tour of cave visits, Frank Burns Esq of Blountville accompanied me.

Blountville Ala.

1883—

Blountville is a finished place—it is situated on the apex of a mountain section—It is the county seat of Blount County—An ex- confederate H. H. Barcliff keeps the hotel—\$1 per. day & good—quiet place—If I were sick would rather live in at Blountville than at the Springs whose waters might act home opathically upon me—here is fine air—while at the springs it has a pent up feeling. Took train for Decatur Ala. 3 cents per mile—On Sunday midst as heavy shower of

rain went on Steamboat on Tennessee River—cold & wet leaky boat, no fire, & very dirty—badly arranged—no order—it runs once a week between Decatur & Chattanooga—took passage for Guntherville, Marshall Co. Ala. Frank Burns gave me letters to Dr. Jackson & Mayor Solomon Palmer of Guntherville

Guntersville, Marshall Co. Ala.*

1883—

Here was the dividing line between Creeks & Cherokees and the crossing—A famous resort for them—Big Spring Creek empties here & forms Henries Island—It is a completed place—red clay & gravel hill—

Dr. J. Miller presented to the National Museum 2 copper spools with thread wound on them—and also beads (teeth of animals & human beings) found in a grave lined with upright rocks. 2½ ft. long & 20 inches wide—

May 1883—

Middle of May & very cold—fires comfortable—Stopped at the Greenwood House \$1.25 per day—

Guntersville is built on hill side of clay & clay & gravel—a fine garden tended by a woman an ornament & a credit—house plain—Kind plain unassuming people—Artificial fertilizer used—Left for steamer in a heavy rain storm.

*Guntersville, on the South bank of the Tennessee River was founded by John Gunter, a part Cherokee and has a very interesting early history. The cave burials in this area obviously ante date the historic Cherokees but they were probably ancestors of these people.

Cave near Guntersville Alab for centuries as Cemetery—much has been carried away in Sacks for fertilizing land yet 4 feet chiefly of fragments of human bones

Shell Banks, Whitesburg, Madison Co.,
Ala.

May 27-1883—

Examined the shell banks.—poor accommodations. Sunday was a great day—2000 mostly blacks, visited Huntsville to a Baptist Sprinkling.

Hack to Huntsville.

Whitesburg was once larger & had more business before the R. R. came. Two grog shops in mixed stores. Landing for the back country 10 miles over a macadamized road to Huntsville—I had agreed the night before on 2½ as the fare to Huntsville if he had no other passenger, otherwise it would be less—when he got to the R. R. he wanted \$3.

The famous shell banks at Whitesburg are on both banks of the Tennessee River. At this place is a ferry an old Indian crossing—At this place the shell heaps are 3 ft thick & from 400 to 500 ft. long. This was once a famous landing—Railroads have crippled it—

Huntsville

Alabama.

May 28-1883—

Shade trees—some are curious knarled Mulberry trees—Fine turnpike roads—square old fashioned buildings—a completed town—a slow & undifferent air reigned around & impressed you indifferently—Dirty old market—& Dirty R. R. building—The town is watered by a fine spring—rags & paper lying about the spring which might be cleaner—The crowd at the depot reminds you of the South, snuff, slowness—Thin people—There are some nice flowers.

Guntersvill Ala

July 27/83

Edward Palmer M. D.

Sir

I have Seen Mr Bridges he Says you can have the bone for a new one or the price of a new one

I was Sorry to hear of you bad heath hope that you will Soon improve

Yours

J. P. Whitman

Guntersville large mound 25 to 30 feet high and 100 feet each way clay base—top made by overflow and cultivation—natural

Hemies Island Mounds Natural

1 mile N. E. of Guntersville

Marshall Co Alab

Visited the localities and person mentioned in this communication—but found little as reported and no speimens—things lost or never had any.

No ferry at Pine Island So could not cross there being a bad slough—*people* curious as to what I wanted with these things of the Indians.

at David Sultzer Dined hear he is a sharp nose man very inquisitive—1 H dinner for 3—

over

Talladega

Alabama.

Left Cleveland, Bradley Co. Tenn.

Aug. 4-1883—for Talladega Ala. to visit Geo. M. Cruikshank Atty. at Law whose father lived amound the Creek Indians, talked their language, left manuscripts of their manners & customs—Part is loaned—part on hand—He made a larger collection of Indian things—(Locality & history uncertain) except a shell hair pen, beads (carved), and a shell breast ornament (carved), and a ornament (carved) an ornamented pot from Creek Indian Grave Yard. Stone rings of enormous size which Mr. Crikshank deceased says he frequently saw worn around the ankles of the Indians. While dancing & being lossely strung jingled lively to the other music (noise). Near this town is the old battle ground of Jackson & the Creeks. The whites who fell have a wall of stone around them—Not far off is the Indian Spring. When some of the Indians left they sold their lands requiring only that their graves should be protected, One chiefs grave near the town has been preserved according to agreement—

This town is celebrated for the lime & its iron like bricks—Deaf, Dumb & Blind Asylum for the education of blacks, (built from northern funds. The town is old fashioned, fine court house—Exchange Hotel a burlesque \$2 per day—Bermuda grass—

You are carried from Cleveland Tenn 8½ a. m. to near 4 p.m. so as to eat at R. R. Hotel at

Talladega Ala.

House Graves, Modern Idnians
Near Talladega Alab 1883

Near Talladega Alab 1883 Four miles South East of Talladega and on the Creek of same name. Hear the Indians resided in the corners of their houses they deposited their dead only one to 1½ feet under the surface. with 3 to 4 skeletons have been found in some houses—with ornamented shells—beads of glass—and shell allso Clam shells which the Indians used as spoons.

Talladega Alabama

Black Drink

The Indians that once lived hear made from the Ilex

A tea called black drink which they used in their council houses in the Spring with much Ceremony.

Game

Indians formerly living about Talladega Alab used the seed of the Convoloulus in their game as dice is used—Five are used in the game best three to five flat side is the winning.

Talladega Alab

Indians now Removed

The Indians Poisoned Fish

by uncerating the roots of the buckeye in water after they was bruised —This decoction was poored into eddies in rivers to stupify fish when they was easily caught. This method is some times resorted to by the present inhabitants.

Anniston

Alabama.

Aug 1883—

Anniston is a new manufacturing place, cotton & iron—new buildings well arranged—trees planted—lighted by electric lights, a live place a contrast to slave times.

Williams Plantation 16 miles E. of Florence, Lauderdale Co. Ala.

Dec. 18-1883—Left Florence for the plantation of Williams by the invitation of D. C. & Andrew Williams 16 miles East of Florence. I

went to visit the mussell Shoales which commence at Shoales Creek 7 miles E. of Florence and extend 18 miles E. of Florence and extend 18 miles, lock 10 at 8th section 12 miles East of Florence of the canal survey—On what is known at the Douglass Place I found 2 mounds $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from Tennessee River (north side) on a high point over looking the river and the surrounding country. They were 50 ft apart, 3 ft high, 30 ft. long, of red clay & nothing else They have been cultivated over for years—In one was found several stone implements sent marked (B); in the other some flint implements marked (A). No sign of any pottery fragments around—The Cherokees lived here when whites settled—Along the river for some distance and extending back up the hills broken flint rocks are thickly scattered about the surface, the greater portion having been worked over more or less. Many pieces of implements are seen. For years the visitors and workmen on Shoals Canal and the people living near have gathered up great quantities, the residents sending theirs off to distant purchasers. Now unless just after fresh ploughing no perfect ones are found.

The canal & locks are a great undertaking. This is now & was when occupied by the Cherokees a great fishing place—During the summer the shoales are nearly dry in places—it is 2 miles wide.

Florence

1884

S. C. Stafford, permission to open mound. Entitled to thanks of National Museum.

1883—December.

Arrived from Nashville in Dec. 1883—

There is an unfinished marble shaft to the confederate dead, in the public square—many confederates.

Florence is a small town with a completed look.

A young man said, "Once they had a republican Probate Judge, then it was republican, now it is changed, The Yankess set the niggers free & let them vote; the whites never ought to have never allowed them to vote. The Yankees sold the South to the slaves & they had no right to liberate them, as they owned them exclusively as any other property—*loss of property now having to work hurt them.*"

Decatur

Alabama

Dec. 23—1883—Arrived here from Florence Ala. as usual late. and had to lay over here till 4 p.m. train for Birmingham three hours late & crowded and it being very wet concluded to wait till morning & take the accomodation, rather than stop hours at Birmingham before leaving for Tuscaloosa at midnight. The cars were crowded with Holiday people—Jews are crowding the towns & accumulating the property.

 Florence, Lauderdale Co.

Alabama.

Dec. 23—83—

A good deal of cotton this year—Cows eat the dry cotton from bales in the street—Negroes complain of small pay—great preparations for Christmas—Good court house—Poor farmers & bad methods. The old families are parting with their property—New people coming to the front—With a little forethought, & energy this people of this mild coimate could be better off. Farms & houses going to decay.—

 Tuscaloosa Alab Dec 24 1883

Prof Cyrus Thomas

Dear Sir

Arrived hear last night. This morning called upon Prof. Smith of the University who went with me to see the owner of the mounds at Carthage we met him and his uncle Col. N. Clemens a former member of Congress who is anscious the mounds Should be opened he said he made frequent visits to the Smithsonion when in Congress and appreciated it usefulness

As Prof Smith and myself had arrange a plan of action namely to say to the owner that as I was on my way to Forkland to see some mounds would call again and See him on my return, this was so as to give the uncle a chance to talk with the nephew. and give me time to call at Carthage to See the mounds then could give you a better idea as to what to offer for the privilige of opening them ourselves and retaining what ever found as what ever is paid for the privilege of opening the mounds and for a Surveyor makeing acurate plan & measurements of the same would be more than I could pay. A Surveyor could be taken from Tuscaloosa when going to open the mounds. The nephew of Col. Clemens is Clemens Prince who manages the property at Carthage for his mother I asked him if he had offers

from other parties he said yes. and Prof Smith said two or three parties wanted to open them and in all probability it would not be long before some one would make him an offer which he would accept—The uncle is anxious for the Smithsonian to open them and on my return hear shall call and See him before Seeing the New

Wrote Prof Thomas Dec 24 that not less than one hundred dollars would be required for the privilege to open the Carthage mounds besides the Survey an expense of opening it asking him to advance the money.

I go to Greensboro untill he is herd from

E. Palmer.

Tuscaloosa Alabama—

Dec. 25-1883—

This old fashioned (town) was once the capital—Its governors solid mansion & old state house are now used as school & University. The cadets in gray—clean & neat—Drill gives health and muscular—development

Rows of trees in centre of street—Old fashioned houses, the roofs not hid by face walls—Not a wealthy place—Street R. R. To Depot 1 mile off—A city with much bad whisky—On Christmas the place is crowded—colored people thick, making extravagant purchases, Drunken men & boys of both colors abundant. A drunken policeman shot a negro man he was trying to arrest which caused threats to be given—a military company was called to hold itself in readiness to march—The noise from drunken men, tin-cans, crackers & etc. was deafning until near midnight when a rain shower quieted them for a while—when it ceased the din revised for awhile. Christmas day some went to Church, many loafed like lost mortals under the influence of whisky—Some of all classes were in this condition—An ox wagon full of factory hands fantastically dressed blackened as darkies. A white man gave some crackers to a negro to throw in the wagon which he did; The occupants jumped out & stoned & beat the darkey—A row was imminent for awhile. Those who saw that only fun was ment quieted the muss. I spent Christmas at the Washington Hotel—\$2 per. day & very poor—wrote letters all day—

Jan 6 & 7—1884—coldest for years—The 6th hard dry frost—It being Sunday unusually quiet & but few moved unless compelled—Houses not suited to cold—so mild & now so suddenly cold it was felt the more keenly—This cold spell compelled me to lay up at the Washington

Hotel—a great dissapointment as I was in hurry to get through—then the thought of loosing so much time was anything but consoling—then the \$2 per. day—

Jan. 7th. at noon commenced to rain which became ice, covering the ground, buildings & trees—traveleing very bad.—The Hotel a stupid place to spend your leisure time—Most of the guests are drummers, occasionally one can be talked to with profit. A Boston Drummer had a disgust to all but large city life, and unfit person to travel, Manners & customs differ, This is for the best—

How all drummers ideas enter and make them conspicuous in every move. By constant application to every more. By constant application to one issue of trade they become specialists & are distinguished from others & told any where—

Tuscaloosa, Alabama

1884

Eugene A. Smith, State University. Entitled to thanks of National Museum.

Dec. 31—1883—

Jan. 2—1884 The notorious Mexico Bill came to the Washington Hotel and registered under that name. He wore a large broad brim that (black), long very curly hair, very well dressed—large self esteem, who, no one could find out his business here. He had a large picture of himself put in the Hotel Show case. He registered from the Rio Grande. He said he had no more use for a nigger than a brute, he considered them no better than a dog & he treated them as such and so did every one where he came from—He quarrelled with a countryman. He would not pay 50 cents for his wash.

Eutaw

Alabama.

Dec. 28—1883—Came to this small old fashioned place shaded by trees —It has a quiet completed look. At the Hotel a gentleman from Forkland informed me that Captain Hall had opened up the mounds, An old citizen of Eutaw told me the same. so returned to Tuscaloosa.

Birmingham

Ala.

Jan. 1884.

Called at Birmingham to see about a group of mounds near that place—detained 9 hours, Stopped at the old fraud of a hotel, the Relay House 75 cents. a meal—

At Calera just as good a meal for 50 cents.

Montgomery, Alabama.*

1884 Jan.—

Square plain white Doric pillowed building badly put up—badly kept and dirty.—

The walls covered with notices of \$5. fine for defacing the building, yet is is scribbled all over—The floors & stairs filthy with tobacco stains, — Was ever a fine collected?

The streets are wide & unpaved, bad muddy crossing, side walks paved—Buildings plain & of brick—good deal of business but people slow—Night chase after a thief who stole a ham from a store and ran. Cotton compress & its cultivation—The credit system a ruin—Town buildings up at the expense of the lands. Poor R. R. Depot—all out doors—

*So far as I know this is one of the few comments of an uncomplimentary character, made to the Capitol building. Conditions such as Dr. Palmer describes were evident during Reconstruction days, that is between 1870 and 1874, but in the 1800's conditions around the Capitol had improved very much. Ed.

visiting card.

Henry B. Hale.

Druggist

Montgomery Alab

Mound 6 miles N. of Montgomery, in
Elmore Co. Ala.*

1884

6 miles N. of Montgomery Ala. but in Elmore Co., in Jackson Lake is an island & overlooking the lake is a mound upon which is growing a pine tree 3 ft in diameter, 2 popular or tulip trees, one 3½ ft. the other 4½ ft. in diameter.

The mound is 129 ft. long—On the Lake side it slopes to the water & is 50 ft. high, but on the field side it was but 12 ft. high of sandy soil throughout. Made a cut 8 ft. square, & when at the depth of 5 ft. came to ashes nearly which were found 2 skulls.

Uncovered further on the west side but contiguous to the ashes were 2 other skulls. The larger bones of all 4 skulls seem to have been thrown across each other very irregularly, giving the impression that the bodies were piled upon each other on the mound near an old camp place, then dirt was piled over to the depth of 5 ft. With the skeletons were found beads, a hair pin made of shell & a piece of copper. In the soil covering the skeletons were found several pieces of pottery, Everything sent from this mound is sent in packages marked (G) nothing was found below the skeletons. A square trench like the centre one was dug on each side of it—Neither the probe or spade discovered anything.

*This mound on the island between Jackson Lake and the main bed of the river has been investigated by archaeologists during most of the period from 1884 down the present. Clarence B. Moore stopped there and carried on a small expedition in 1899, and even as late of 1954 objects were being dug out of the mound. As a rule there have been very few mounds on the Alabama River which have been identified as burial mounds. This is one of them.

(1)

Coosada Station,*

Ala

Old Indian town Coosada

1884

B. Boykin.

C. M. Jackson entitled to thanks of National Museum, 1884—Coosada Station is 8½ miles North of Montgomery in County of same name. It is on the Louisville and Nashville R. R. & so named after the old Indian Town near by on the banks of the Alabama River. The Alabama Indians occupied the town of Coosada when the first whites came into the country. This locality for years has been the resort for the wealthier class of people of Montgomery who have built residences her in the woods—The soil is sandy—The old town sight is high & level. The river for years has encroached upon this historic place carrying away much of it, and the visitors gathering up the pottery, pipes, beads, stone implements and etc. washed out. The river seems to have carried away the part formerly inhabited for I could find nothing by digging but on examining that which last

caved in, found parts of 3 or 4 vessels, a nail, & top of glass bottle more or less embedded in earth near 3 ft. from the top, they were that deep before the cave in—Many of the pieces still remained in their original position with numerous pieces of human bones—Nothing more could be found—during the summer the visitors carrying away whatever could be found. There is a mistake about this being the old Indian Town of Coosada mentioned by the Whites, Am sorry nothing more could be found, From this elevated spot a good view up & down the river is had—

In conversation with the people around regarding the depth at which things were found was told it was 2 feet—that several skeletons were washed out—As this spot was once occupied by dwelling, they may have been hid under them.

*The Crawford Jackson plantation below the junction of the two rivers yielded considerable results to Dr. Moore's expeditions in 1899, and during the life time of Mr. Young Jackson, who operated that plantation in his late life, a great many archaeological objects were plowed out.

Forks of the Cosa and Tallaposa Rivers—*Jackson and Creek Indians*

General Jackson determined to reduce the Creek Indians to peace or of extermination he prepared to take up the line of march for the Hickory grounds comprising the regions lying between the Cosa and Tallapoosa rivers known as the Forks. This region was the favorite resort of the Creek Indians, and their prophets has assured them it was sacred against the footsteps of the white man.

The army arrived at old Fort Talassee on the Cossa six miles above its mouth. This is the Site of the old French Fort Toulouse upon an isthmus between the Coosa and Tallapoosa which approaches within one hundred yards of each other.

Here the last chain of millatary posts were erected and called Fort Jackson. Here was their strong hold round a large mound.

Many cultivated nuts & c

History of the discovery and settlement of the valley of the Miss by John W. Monette, M. D.

Montgomery Alabama

1884

B. Leon Wyman.

T. S. Doran—assistance to open mounds—

W. R. Westcott,

J. F. Johnson M. D.

All of the above are entitled to the thanks of the National Museum.

Wetumpka, Elmore Co. Ala.*

Ft. Jackson—

In March 1884—visited Wetumpka to get a team for Ft. Jackson. rain prevented finishing so had to return—The court in session—no room in the only hotel very badly kept—Slept in a Grist mill with the owner & got breakfast at the hotel—a drunken crowd well & poorly dressed, pleaders of the law and attendants at court—the greater part more or less drunk, even at the table & more so at night—using very bad language—

The town is old & R. R.s have killed its trade. *Men of color* are poorly paid on farms 7 to \$10 & board or 50 cents a day, 1 peck of corn meal, & 3 pounds of salt meat (pork) I succeeded in finishing at Fort Jackson in time to escape a heavy rain storm but was prevented from finishing 2 other places near Montgomery in time designated. “What foolish questions we were asked me” I Packed as quick as possible to keep them from being handled & so as to finish before dark. Many think I am for the government and therefore ought to show to oblige every one. The black & white start many rumors as to why I came here. The express agent neglected to send my box through, though delivered the night before, At one time he refused because of time train leaving. A few mornings afterwards a showy man gave him a package to send just before the train left—I reported him—

*Dr. Palmer and many other writers have commented on the conduct of the crowd at Wetumpka, after it became the County seat. Note is made that the writer states that the railroad has killed the trade of Wetumpka. Prior to the War Between the States steamboats operated as high up stream as the dock at Wetumpka but there are no records of boats “making” the town after the war.

House Sites & Mounds, now called
Fort Jackson—Alabama.*

1884

The Fort is situated near the junction of the Coosa & Tallapoosa Rivers, The Creek Indians tradition declared that this spot had never been desecrated by the foot of white man and which was considered holy ground. Here is where the French mastered them & built Fort Toulouse upon the sight of which Ft. Jackson was built. Here General Jackson completely mastered the Creeks. The White settled about the Fort & formed a town but it being unhealthy they moved the town to the Headwater of navigation on the Coosa River & established it there as Wetumpka, Elmore Co. Ala. Ft. Jackson is 5 miles S of W of Wetumpka. The banks of both the Coosa & Tallapoosa Rivers are caving in rapidly so that the space between them at Ft. Jackson is not more than 300 yards. Fort Jackson has changed very much since the battles were fought with the Creeks. All the sights of the Fort are gone into the River and only slight evidences of the houses that once stood here are to be seen—The rivers at various times have cut away their banks, washing away the land on the West side of the mound at this place & leaving a deep depression. The water had carried away so much soil from the front of the mound that it has left that side quite steep—The land washed away comprised several acres judging from the fragments left behind House sites of the Creek Indians once stood upon this spot. The earth to the North & South & East of the mound prove on examination to be full of house sights & why not the West side which adjoins. The mound at the West side is nearly straight & 45 ft. high and 12 ft. long, while on the East side the mound has a slope of—

*The junction of the two rivers which now marks the site of the mound referred to by Dr. Palmer, was actually a small neck of land at the time of this writer's visit but the 1886 flood caused the water to cut out of the Tallapoosa River and in to the Coosa, only a few hundreds yards north of the mound at old Fort Toulouse. Why Dr. Palmer never found the archaeological remains at the mound site is quite a question. From about 1930 to 1945 or 1946, this site yielded the largest collection of archaeological remains ever taken out in the Southern States at one point. Evidence of five different cultural strata are shown there. Urn burial people utilized burial places of a stone age culture and the Indians of later date buried on and in with the urn burial people. A highly developed shell culture was found in the burial site south of the mound and at points near by are the remains and relics of Indians who were being buried there as late as 1815 when the site was pre-empted by the Treaty of Fort Jackson.

Menac Station, Lowndes Co. Ala.

1884

A. C. Hamilton for examination of graves—entitled to thanks of National Museum.

*House Site N. E. corner of Lowndes Co.**
on South Bank of Alabama River at the
junction of Penthala Creek & River.

1884—

Here is what appears to be a house—site. In 2 packages marked (B) will be found parts of the same skull found in this old house site. Here was found just protruding out from the river bank the bones of a skeleton, the skull of which is of unusual form with decayed teeth—near it was found ashes but nothing else. It was 3 ft. deep in Sandy soil. The field enclosing the spot has but few pieces of pottery scattered about, over its surface though it has been cultivated for years—The rains washing the soil after ploughing towards the river covered the remains deeper than they originally were. Much is said about finding double vessels of pottery in which were human remains—The owner of the field A. C. Hamilton informs me that for 40 years this field has been cultivated that most of the seasons, while ploughing one or more double earthen vessels are struck, one being fitted over the other in which are the bones of a person—the top one is invariably broken by the plow. One of the lower one was sent to the Centenial with orders for transferring it to the Smithsonian. The washing of the soil brings the pottery within reach of the plow. The many years of cultivation must have brought nearly everything to light. By the probe & spade could strike nothing. The owner will forward what ever is found in future, however broken to the Smithsonian. If the fragments on the surface are any indication of what is below there never was much. Am of the opinion that there were but few & those have mostly been turned out by the plow & the same means must reveal the balance as there is nothing to guide you not even a mound

*This reference of Dr. Palmer is of particular importance to the students of urn burial customs. Exactly on the site as referred to by Dr. Palmer, in 1908, members of the Alabama Anthropological Society found a highly developed urn burial culture and numbers of vessels were taken out here. A rather interesting phase of vault-like arrangement of vessels were found at this place and over a period of 30 years many aboriginal remains were taken out.

Eufaula, Barbour Co. Alabama.

1884 Jan 19

Dr. E. B. Johnson—entitled to thanks to National Museum.

Jan 19—1884.

Plain common hotel—want of tact in management—Food good at \$2 per day—

Plenty of Saloons—Saturday is a loafing day with blacks & whites—Sandy soil with pine—Called and presented letter to Dr. E. B. Johnson from his brother J. F. Johnson, of Montgomery—

Jan 20—Sunday at noon sun came out—cool & clear—

The young men came from churches to P. O. near hotel came to latter & many took drinks from a bar adjoining & others a cigar—Soon the sitting room was full of the most disgusting odors and the floor a nasty sight with juice of (Tobacco)

The guests of the hotel crowded out by these Tailor and Jeweler ornamented young men. Their conversation was like that from men who talked for talk sake a lot of unmeaning trash.

The Clerk said the spectacle in the sitting room was an every Sunday occurrence when it was cold

Wells in the center of streets—detained by sickness several days

(1) House Sites of Creek Indians

San Francis—Bend of Chattahoochee
River 3 miles E. of N. Eufaula, Barbour
Co. Alabama.

1884—

This is an elevated section of sandy soil. Here along the bend of the Chattahoochee River the oldest people state was the home of the Creek Indians when the white first came in this section—For many years this spot has been cultivated, so now nothing but fragments remain & these mostly pottery—Of late the river has taken to cutting into the river bank. As cultivation had not disturbed some yards before reaching the river which spot was covered with trees & bushes which left whatever there might be below the surface undisturbed so that when water cut into the bank several gullies, many things were found by the people & also several skeletons. Looking at the locality

and judging by the distribution of the fragments as now seen which are not continuous but found here & there scattered over a small space of ground with small distances between them, where no fragments are found and the water cutting through one of these places reveals nothing, so it may be inferred that the spots of ground on which the fragments of household articles were found were once occupied by the residence of Creek Indians. A delightful view up & down the river is had from this elevation which fact made it very desirable for Indian habitation.

Coffeeville, Clark Co. Ala.*

1884—Feb 6th.

Came here by steamer to visit the old Indian settlement of Turkeytown and a so called mound near by—

Feb 6th. landed at dusk—the village nearly 1 mile off—had to walk & carry my heavy valise, No hotel—the postmaster took me in. (Capt. J. Foscue)

4 stores & a few scattering houses in the pine & oak woods. A private school for whites—

My mound was a marl heap. and Turkeytown a later reservation of the Indians—at several spots fragments of pottery, bones, & arrow heads found—no account—5 miles West & N. at West Bend from Coffeeville many of the negro women as of old dress the heads up in old bandanna handkerchiefs. On the steamer of the Tombigbee River the negro first class passengers eat in the cabin after others. Females sleep aft of Ladies Cabin—Males in Texas.

Feb. 10 left Coffeeville for *Mobile*.

*This reference to "Negro first class passengers" on steamboats on the Tombigbee River is the first time I ever saw mention of the fact. The statement "Males in Texas" has reference to the custom, to the uninitiated, of sleeping the male passengers on steamboats in the super deck or small cabin which houses also the pilot house.

Mobile Ala.

National Cemetery—

Feb. 1884—

The National Cemetery adjoins the Magnolia Cemetery & is well

kept. Some of the shrubs are too near the stones which become black—Brown 778—unknown 124—Orange & some of the more tender trees more or less injured by the unusually cold winter—Large red Cameelias in bloom—Fine Fig Trees—

R. R. Have killed Mobiles cotton trade—A bale of cotton at common gin is 5 ft. long, 2½ ft. wide & 1½ ft. thick and average about 500 lbs. Once rope was used to bind it—7 yards of bagging, 6 iron hoops 2 ties are now used.

Mobile, Alabama,
1884

Wm. L. McNeill

Dr. Charles Mohr.*

Both the above are entitled to the thanks of the National Museum.

Feb. 12—1884—Visited the the Magnolia Cemetary. In the old part are some good monuments & fences but the lots badly kept—the new part wretchedly kept—In this climate it could be made fine with its rare trees & shrubs that grow here.

The Confederate Cemetary adjoins the former in the new part—The occupants died in defense of the place each one a tall tomb stone all alike a few private ones—Some are officers of low grade & contain name, company—Reg. date of death & year. Reg. & company not always known.

*Dr. Charles Mohr, to whom the writer refers, was the well known botanist who published a great deal about the plant life of Alabama. Dr. Mohr was a druggist at Mobile for a long period. In 1900, he issued a volume which was published jointly by the Federal Government and the Alabama Geological Survey, entitled "Plant Life of Alabama."

Mobile—Ala.*

C. S. A.

Several unknown marked on the stones. At one corner a square surrounded by stone curbing ornamented by stone cannon, a marble vase in the centre of grass on the outside in large letters "Alabama State Artillery." At another corner a similar square but ornamented with stone balls to "Mobile Cadets."

A similar square with a large stone slab on top as if unfinished, but at the ascent of steps is marked "General Braxton Bragg."

In the centre is a monumental shaft surmounted by an infantryman resting his chin on the butt of his gun & looking down upon the graves below—

This work was by subscription.

*This is one of the very few early references to Confederate cemeteries in the Southern States. Many of the graves of Confederate soldiers who died in hospitals are marked as "Unknown" and in most Southern cities will be found large areas of these "stone slabs" which are referred to by the writer.

Burying Ground & c*

Gainestown Clark Co. Alab

Gainstown landing owned by J. N. Jackosn who Kindly entertained me he is an old setter with a pleasant family an agreeable place to stop

Feb 14 Peaches & Plums in bloom Summer heat—on the 15 ice

A Bluffy country Clay & and marl surrounded by Sand

Came hear to visit the Sight of Fort Maubila Said to be at Frenches or Brashear landing 4½ miles East of Gainstown on the North bank of Alabama River Sec 2 township 5 range 4 all traces of Fort Maubila have disappeared. and the mound once hear his disappeared—while the So called burying ground had nearly disappeared it being on the bank of the river which now caves So that but 20 feet of the part of river bank with human remains is left that having a great slope—this after each plowing as it is part of a plowed field the rains wash off the Sandy soil leaving the bones exposed to the plow. In the higher part next the river bank I found in one place just one foot under the Sand, three Sculls Side by Side with the other bones of the bodies mixed and laying back of the Sculls as if brought from elsewhere and hear interred they where to soft to habdle.

Thirty feet from these found two more remains buried just like the former at the same debth—nothing was with them no ashes or any sign of occupation Seen—nothing more could be found in the bank but in a part recently caved off part of a broaken pott was found.

Examining the adjoining part in the plowed field found numerous pieces of human bones and Some fragments of pottery

If this Spot was ever thickly Settled there is nothing now to designate it. it is Commonly asserted that the dead found near by the caving bank was placed in potts—this was not the Case. Those found by me where without anything—potts may have been Seen by the side of bones as they fell out of the river bank and thus gave colour to the rumour.

Fe. 16—1884—rained from 10 a. m. to 4 a. m. on the 17th. the river continiously raising & so rapidly that steamers could over use the bluff landings—

*The writer's comments relative to his visit to Gainestown, in Clarke County, Ala., are quite pertinent. Many of the early writers on the route of DeSoto placed the town of Maubila, at or near Gainestown, but investigators of recent years have never been able to locate the place either at Gainestown, French's Bend, or Broshear's Landing. High water of 1886 and some floods of later years have changed the course of the river but the investigators attempting to locate the route for the 400th anniversary commorative volume issued a few years ago, were not able to justify the placing of DeSoto's engagement with Tuscaloosa Indians as on the Alabama River in the vicinity of what was known in 1864, as Fort Stonewall, of Confederate history. Dr. Palmer's mention of skulls and other burial evidences made worthy consideration. Note is made that he says that he found no evidence of urn burial but it is prevalent in that area and has been identified there in recent years.

Blakely mounds Early Co. Alabama.* (Early Co. is in Georgia)

March 20th 1884 at 8.15 p.m. arrived at Blakely—The next day visited the mounds with James P. Fleming. Met the owner A. J. Merrill & made arrangements to commence on the smaller mounds & housesites on Monday 24th. & leaving the large mound until further instructions from Washington. Saturday prepared everything for work—at 4 p. m. it rained hard & continued all night & next day until Monday—a gloomy dull time in a new place—Saturday night though several were in town, the rain drove most home so little wishky noise was heard. A little after dark the place was as if a death had placed a fall over it. Its square lit by here and there a flickering kerosene. My visit to this place is causing a great deal of gossip.

There is 1 hotel—0 blacksmith shops, 2 shoemakers, 1 druggist—3 doctors, 3 lawyers, 3 stores, 12 saloons, 2 carpenters & the people number 800

*This paragraph title has been corrected to read Early County, Ga. This visit was without question to that city which is now referred to in the scientific journals as Kolomoki. The location was first mentioned in the late 1840's and Col. Albert J. Pickett quotes an early reference and makes further comments and publishes a very good sketch of the mounds in his history of Alabama published in 1851.

Blakely Early Co at (Georgia)

Ap 6, 1884 Green Peas & New Potatoes

Inhabitants are very communicative

Politics they easily take to

Sit and talk wishing the people from the North would come and develop the country, they espaciate upon the fraud results to follow—

Why dont they reap the reward and not strangers

Survant colored

Woman cooks 5 to 8 & Rations

” house girls 2 to 5 & Rations

” by day 25—to 50 cts and ”

Near Blakely, Baldwin Co. Ala.*

1884.

The Indian Quoits was found about 1856 by some neighbors in a shell heap. It may immediately brought by them to their employer, Cyrus Sibley in whose family it has been ever since—
This news was obtained at Mobile Alabama.

*Why the visitor who was near Blakely on the Chattahoochee River would cross the entire State to reach Blakely, on the Mobile River, is somewhat a question. The reference to Indian quoits found about 1856, by some neighbors in a shell mound, who brought them to their employer, Cyrus Sibley, positively fixes the place as in Baldwin County, Ala. as Mr. Sibley was one of the earliest settlers there and his family even today are represented in that locality. The last reference to “mounds near Blakely, Ala.” is confusing as this suggests that he must have been

traveling from Blakely, Ga., toward the mounds at Kolomoki, for he says he passed the owner "drunk in his buggy." The comments made as of the date, Monday, 1st day of April, at the time the 7th district Court met, suggests that he was quartered in a hotel located in the County seat. It is all the more confusing when one remembers that Blakely, Ga., and Blakely, Ala., were both County seats at that time.

Mounds near Blakley Ala.

Tuesday March 25 was gloomy & prospect of rain, nevertheless set out for the mounds,—passed the owner on his way to town—he was very pleasant, returning we passed him drunk in his buggy. He asked us what we had in a half audible manner we told him nothing of any importance. He wanted to know when we were coming again & we told him day after tomorrow—

Well, he said, I wont to see you then. A wet day worked between the showers—reached town near 6 p. m. heavy rain set in & continued till 9 p. m. then next morning at 7 p. m. heavy rain—The 1st Monday in April, the 7th, District court met. The solicitor with some townsmen gambled & drank returned to hotel 3 a.m. Sunday morning—Staid in room with drummer—He said to his companion on entering what D.—thing is that there. The gentleman said, I am a gentleman and suppose the landlady considered you so when she put you in here. They stammered out an apology—all day Sunday men went to his room for drinks for I saw the bottle and the men under the influence. A fine law officer, how can he impartially expound the law!

Many inquiries as to—"What that old Yankee was doing"!

TRANSCRIPTS HENRY COUNTY LEGAL DOCUMENTS

Contributed by Mrs. Ethel Teague Jones

The State of Alabama Henry County

This Indenture made and entered into this twenty eighth day of February A. D. one thousand eight hundred and Thirty five (1835) between George Jones of the County and State aforesaid of the one part and Isaac D. Morgan of the same place of the other part Witnesseth, that the said George Jones for and in consideration of the Sum of Fifty dollars to him in hand paid by the said Isaac D. Morgan at and before the Sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged hath granted, bargained, sold and conveyed and do by these presents grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said Isaac D. Morgan, his heirs and assigns all that tract or parcel, of Land, situate, lying and being in the County aforesaid & immediately on the Chattahoochy River. Of which the following is a Description, viz. Fractional section number eighteen (18) in Township number Five (5) of Range Thirty (30) being in District of Lands subject to sale at Sparta Alabama Containing Eighteen (18) Acres and fifty hundredths of an Acre, To have and to hold the said tract or parcel of Land. with all and Singular the rights, members and appurtenances thereof to the said Isaac D. Morgan being, belonging or in any wise appertaining with the remainder and remainders reversion and reversions, rents issues and profits thereof to the only proper use benefit and behoof of him the said Isaac D. Morgan his heirs, Executors, Administrators and assigns in fee Simple, And the said George Jones his heirs, Executors, Administrators and assigns the said bargained promises unto the said Isaac D. Morgan his heirs and assigns against the said George Jones his heirs, Executors, Administrators and all and every person or persons, shall and will warrant and forever defend by these presents In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Seal the day and year above written Signed, Sealed & Delivered

In presence of

George Jones Seal

D. H. Newton

George W. Williams J. P.

The State of Alabama

Henry County

Before me Moses K. Speight Clerk of
the Circuit Court personally came

George Jones, the maker of the within Deed and acknowlings [?] that he signed sealed and delivered the within written Deed to Isaac D. Morgan on the day and year therein Written and for the uses and purposes therein Mentioned—Given under my hand and private Seal there being no Seal of office this 16, day of May AD 1835 & of American Independence the 59th year

Moses K. Speight Clerk (Seal)

ENDORSEMENTS: Deed for the Conveyance of Land George Jones to Isaac D. Morgan Clerks Office County Court Henry County Alabama Recorded in Book A page 393 this 26th May AD 1835

Re'd in office 16th May 1835

M. K. Speight Clerk

The State of Alabama

Henry County

This Indenture made and entered into this twenty eighth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty five (1835) between David H. Newton of the County and State aforesaid of the one part and George Jones of the same place of the other part Witnesseth, that the said David H. Newton for and in consideration of the Sum of Fifty three dollars to him in hand paid by the said George Jones at and before the Sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipts whereof is hereby acknowledged hath granted, bargained, Sold, released, confirmed and conveyed and do by these presents, grant, bargain sell, release, confirm and convey unto the said George Jones and to his heirs and assigns forever, the following tract, price or parcel of Land, viz, The South part of the North East Fraction of Section, twenty-four in Township five of Range twenty nine, in the district of Lands Subject to sale at Sparta Alabama, containing forty three acres more or less, the North line of the premises hereby conveyed, commencing immediately on the bank of the Chattahoochy River, at a certain large Bull Bay and running due west and parrallel to the other east and west lines in said Fractional Section, until said line strikes the west line of said Fraction running North and South being all of said Fraction lying South of first aforesaid line to have and to hold all and

Singular the said Lands, tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining and the reversion or reversions, remainder or remainders and also all the right, title, interest and property whatsoever both at Law and Equity of the said David H. Newton into or out of Lands tenements, hereditaments and promises unto the said George Jones his heirs and assigns and to their own proper use benefit and behoof in fee simple. And the said David H. Newton for himself, his heirs, Executors or Administrators and assigns, all and singular the aforesaid Lands tenements, hereditaments and promises and every part and parcel thereof unto the said George Jones his heirs and assigns against him the said David H. Newton his heirs, Executors, Administrators and assigns and against all other persons whatsoever claiming or to claim by through or under them will warrant and forever defend by these presents In Witness whereof the said David H. Newton hath hereunto set his hand and affixed his Seal the day and year above written

Signed, Sealed & Delivered

D. H. Newton

(Seal)

In presence of

Isaac D Morgan

George W. Williams J. P.

ENDORSEMENT: Deed of Conveyance David H. Newton to George Jones Clerks office County Court Henry County Alabama Recorded in Book A Page 395

26th May 1835

Moses K. Speight Clerk

Earthenware vessel of red, local, native clay from the headwaters of Little River, in South Alabama, at a locality certainly not far from what was Alexander McGillivray's plantation home from which he went, in 1792, at the time he was stricken, quoting Col. Pickett, on the path to Pensacola. Gen. McGillivray died a few weeks later at the home of his friend, William Panton. This vessel was turned out by Mr. L. Garvin Bell, of Frisco City, Ala., while clearing some wooded area not far from Goodway, now in the museum of the Department of Archives and History.



SOME RECENT ACCESSIONS BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Compiled by Jessie E. Cobb, Librarian

Books and pamphlets

Alabama Chapter. Society of Mayflower Descendants

A collection of material pertaining to the history of the Plymouth Colony and genealogy of the descendants of the Mayflower passengers consisting of 348 books and pamphlets, 45 film strips and 53 slides. The imprint dates range from 1821 to the present, as well as facsimiles of earlier publications.

Bible

The Holy Bible, translated from the Latin Vulgate, diligently compared with the Hebrew, Greek, and other editions in divers languages. The Old Testament, first published by the English College at Douay, A.D. 1609, and the New Testament, first published by the English College at Rheims, A.D. 1562. Newly revised and corrected, according to the Clementin edition of the scriptures, with annotations for clearing up the principal difficulties of Holy Writ. Liverpool: Caston Press, by Nuttall, Fisher, and Dixon 1816.

An edition of the Catholic English Bible revision known as the Troy Bible, having been prepared under the direction of Dr. F. Joh. Thomas Troy, A.D.H.P., Archbishop of Dublin. Engraved on the spine of the Bible is "Douay Bible. Liverpool, 1816." Engraved on the front of the Bible is "Wm. Sweeny." This Bible was from the library of the late Dr. Richard Bennett McCann, Seale, Alabama. It was a gift from Mrs. R. B. McCann, Seale.

Browning, Edward Franklin

Genealogy of the Brownings in America from 1621 to 1908. Newburgh, N. Y., Journal Print.

Butler, Samuel

Geographia classica: or the application of antient geography to the classics. Second American, from the ninth London edition, with questions on the maps, by John Frost, Philadelphia, 1831.

Inscribed on the fly-leaf is: Geo. W. Gaines, Tuscahoma, 1833.

On a page near the back of the book is: George W. Gaines' book, University of Alabama, April 5th, 1833. There is no doubt but that this is an original textbook of the University of Alabama. *A Register of the Officers and Students of the University of Alabama, 1831-1901*, by Palmer shows that George Washington Gaines matriculated in 1831 from Washington county, son of George Strother Gaines, State Line, Miss. and Elizabeth Gaines born 1815 warehouseman married Eliza Earle died 1852 or 1853. Last address was Tuskahoma.

Gift of Mrs. Mattie Jo Glover, Route 6, Montgomery, Alabama.

Carter, Clarence Edwin, editor

Territorial papers of the United States. Washington, D. C., General Services Administration.

Vol. 17, Florida Territory, 1821-1824.

Cocke, Zitella

A Doric Reed. Boston, Copeland & Day, 1895.

Author was born in Perry county, Alabama and a graduate of Judson College. She wrote several other books of poems and contributed essays and short stories to several magazines.

Cumming, Kate

Kate: The journal of a Confederate nurse, by Kate Cumming, edited by Richard Barksdale Harwell. Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University Press, 1959.

First published in 1866 under title: *A Journal of Hospital Life in the Confederate Army*. Miss Cumming was born in Scotland, brought to America when an infant, her family settling in Mobile, where she spent about 40 years. She served as a nurse during the War Between the States. She later returned to Alabama, near Birmingham, where she lived until she died.

Griffin, Martin I.J.

Rev. John Ricco, cigar maker in Philadelphia and planter in Alabama. *The American-Catholic Historical Research*, July 1890, page 134-137.

This article is an account of Rev. John Ricco, of Spain, joining the settlers on the French grant in the Alabama Territory, 1817, where he

engaged in the cultivation of "fine vines of Spain." Ricco's land was No. 18, Township 18, Range 3 East, containing 12 acres. It was about a mile from Demopolis in the Northeast corner near the Warrior River.

Hurtel, Caroline Gaillard

The river plantation of Thomas and Marianne Gaillard. Mobile, Rankin Press, 1959.

Gift of author who now lives in Mobile and is the great granddaughter of Thomas and Marianne Gaillard.

Martin, Evelyn Tyson

Ancestors and descendants of John Caius Tyson, Sr. Typewritten.

Gift of author, Birmingham.

Mundt, Frau Clara

Joseph II, and his court. An historical novel, by L. Muhlbach pseud. From the German by Adelaide De V. Chaudron. Mobile: S. H. Goetzel, publisher, 1864. Four volumes bound in one. Excellent condition with wall-paper covers for each volume. At foot of cover-title: Farrow & Dennett, Printers, Mobile.

Madame Adelaide De Vendel Chaudron was the daughter of Emile De Vendel, a teacher. She married Paul Chaudron of Mobile, grandson of Jean Simon Chaudron, one of the pioneers of the French Vine and Olive Colony in Marengo County. After the death of her husband, she was principal of Southern Institute in Mobile, a seminary for ladies.

Morrow, Ralph E.

Northern Methodism and reconstruction. Michigan State University Press. 1956.

Ormshbee, Thomas H

English china and its marks. Great Neck, N. Y., Deerfield, Editions, Limited, 1959.

Stevenson, Wm. G

Thirteen months in the Rebel army: being a narrative of personal

adventures in the infantry, ordinances, cavalry, courier and hospital services . . . by an impressed New Yorker. New York, A.S. Barnes & Burr, 1862.

Strode, Hudson

Jefferson Davis: Confederate President. New York, Harcourt, Brace & company, 1959.

The second volume of the Confederate President's biography by Hudson Strode, who is Professor of English at the University of Alabama where he conducts his successful class in creative writing.

Tourje, E.C.

Camellia culture. New York, MacMillan Co., 1958.

Wilson, James Harrison

Under the old flag, recollections of military operations in the War for the Union, the Spanish War, the Boxer Rebellion, etc. 2 volumes.

New York, Appleton & co., 1912.

Autographed copy. Gives an account of "Wilson's Raid" through Alabama during 1865.

Manuscript collections

Chambers, Nella Jean

Papers.

- I. Fort Mitchell records, correspondence, and notes for a history of the Fort . . . (about 300 sheets, including pages of notebooks).
- II. Family records . . . (about 400 sheets)
Included are copies of biographical sketches of Waightstill Avery and Henry Downs, signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, and Avery's dairy for 1769; correspondence and records of the Chambers, Fitzpatrick, Heard, Tatum and related families.

Jones, George L.

Business correspondence, promissory notes, receipts, tax receipts, and land deeds . . . (150 sheets)

Gift of Mrs. Ethel Teague Jones, Montgomery, Ala.

Watts, Thomas Hill

Additional papers (about 550 items)

Gift of Mrs. Janie Troy Hooker, Montgomery, Ala.

Yerby, William E.

Papers

- I. Original minutes of the meetings of the trustees of the Greensboro Female Academy, 1839-1845.
11. Letters (7) written in 1888 about the early history of Greensboro.

Gift of Mrs. Mabel Yerby Lawson, Auburn, Ala.

Maps

Barnwell, John

Southeastern North America, ca. 1722 Photostat map 31x49 inches. Original: London. Public Record Office. Colonial Office Library. North American Colonies. General 7.

The area shown extends from Cape Charles in Virginia southward to Cape Canaveral in Florida, and westward to the Mississippi River. Cumming, in his *The Southeast in Early Maps*, describes this map thus: "In the early years of the eighteenth century few colonists knew Carolina and its back country better than Colonial 'Tuscarora Jack' Barnwell, Indian fighter, trader, and anti-propriety leader. This unsigned and undated manuscript, ascribed to him on eternal grounds, is rich in information about early trading paths and trading posts east of the Mississippi River, the location and population of Indian tribes, English settlements, and explanatory legends. It . . . is one of the most detailed general maps of the Southeast."

At Fort Toulouse is a legend that before its usurpation by the French in 1715, it had been "an English Factory for 28 years without intermission til that Time."

Gift of Dr. Dan Thomas, Head of the History Department, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, R.I.

Colton

Colton's map of the state of Alabama, published 1870. Colored map. 39x29 inches.

Gift of Mrs. Lee Whorton, Gadsden, Ala.

Stanford, Edward

Stanford's map of the seat of war in America. London, pub. by Edward Stanford, Oct. 1, 1861. Colored map, 52x44 inches, fold into case 9x5½ inches.

Shows land from Hudson River to west of Mississippi River, from Great Lakes to tip to Florida. Roads and unnamed railroads shown. Inset: General map of the United States, showing slave, free and seceded states (Tennessee not included among seceded states).

Gift of Mrs. Emile Mannie, Montgomery, Alabama.

Microfilms

Alabama. Federal census. 1880

Thirty-one rolls of microfilm copies of the original schedules. National Archives, General Services Administration, Washington, D. C. (Replacing worn-out records.)

Ebenezer Church, Ramer, Alabama

Original minutes, 1866-1897. Microfilm copy.

Gift of C. S. Smith, Grady.

South Carolina. Federal census. 1850

Chester-Lexington counties. one roll microfilm.

Gift of Mrs. Ethel Barnett, Montgomery.

Military Archives

United Daughters of the Confederacy. Alabama Chapter

Tombstone and Cemeteries of Confederate Dead in Alabama.

Weems, Locke

Private collection of personal letters, Confederate letters, bills of sale for Negroes, etc., 1828-1861. 38 pieces.

Gift of Miss Beatrice Seymour Goodwin, Winter Park, Florida.

Music

Hircher, S.E., composer

Our governor's march, dedicated to Col. Thos. G. Jones, Gov. elect of Alabama. Published by author, Montgomery, 1890.

Gift of Gov. Jones' son, Judge Walter B. Jones, Montgomery.

Museum

An aboriginal earthenware jar, ten inches in diameter, of red, local, native clay from the headwaters of Little River, in southern Alabama. This locality is not far from the home of one of Alexander McGillivray's wives, Joseph Curnell's daughter. According to *Pickett-History of Alabama*, page 430, Alexander McGillivray was taken ill on the path, after leaving this home, and died eight days later in Pensacola at the home of William Panton. This jar was turned out by Mr. L. Garvin Bell, of Frisco City, Alabama while clearing some wooded area near Goodway. Mr. Bell presented the jar to the department of Archives and History.

Chippendale sofa

In memory of Dr. John Blue, prominent physician, Montgomery, from William Arrington, Montgomery.

Footed silver tray, presented to Frank P. Morgan, President of National Association of Railway and Utilities Commission, 1935-36. Juliette H. Morgan Memorial by her mother, Mrs. Frank P. Morgan, Montgomery.

Pair of seven branch brass Spanish type cathedral candlelabra. Juliette H. Morgan Memorial by her mother, Mrs. Frank P. Morgan, Montgomery.

Newspapers

The Daily Journal, Montgomery, February 5, 1857.

Jacksonville Republican, Jacksonville, April 23, August 28, 1864

Monroe Journal, Claiborne, for the years 1870, 1878-1882.

Southern Shield, Eufaula, Sept. 18, 1851.

RECONSTRUCTION IN PIKE COUNTY POLITICAL AND MILITARY*

By Mrs. Kate Murphree Copeland

Unsettled condition prevailed for several years in the Southern States after the War Between the States. General Lee had surrendered to General Grant at Appomattox in 1865. The slaves had been freed, the Civil Rights Bill passed in 1866 and the South divided into military districts, over each of which was placed a general, subject to the command of the Commanding General of the Army.

Andrew Johnson, of Tennessee, a Republican, who had deserted the Democratic party at the beginning of the war, and who lost the support of the Republican Party and never gained support of the Democrats, had become President of the United States following the assassination of President Lincoln. He was followed by President Grant.

William H. Smith of Randolph County, a Republican, succeeding Governor R. M. Patton was governor of Alabama during the stormiest days of Reconstruction, followed by Governor Robert B. Lindsay, a Democrat whose strong friendship for leading Republicans and prejudices against leading Democrats made him a disappointment to the party that elected him.

In 1866 Durham W. Siler was Probate Judge of Pike County succeeded by Willis C. Wood. John R. Goldthwaite was Representative and later John P. Hubbard—Dr. A. N. Worthy was senator.

In a letter to the Southern Messenger of December 20, 1866, Honorable J. McCaleb Wiley, member of Congress from this district states, "there is not the slightest possibility of our representatives being admitted to their seats in the present Congress," and that he would soon return home.

Military rule was forced upon the South—Georgia, Florida, and Alabama constituted a military district under General Pope. General Wager Swayne had charge of Alabama with headquarters in Montgomery. From the Southern Messenger of March 11, 1867 we copy the following on the effects of the Military Bill—taken from a north-

*Papers of the Pike County Historical Society, Vol. 1, Nos. 9 & 10.

ern paper—The New York Tribune. “The immediate responsibility now rests with the President, after him with the Southern States. He may veto the bill and they may refuse its offer. But should it become a law the effects will be the same.

(1) The Rebel States will retain their present government but merely as provisional governments under which no person who as the third section of the Constitution enacts—having taken an oath as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State Legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any state to support the Constitution of the United States and shall have aided in the Rebellion is eligible to hold office and also under such governments no discrimination in regard to color shall be in the elective franchise.

(2) While these provisional governments exist the Rebel States are to be divided into military districts governed by officers of the Army with power to organize military courts superior to state authority.

(3) The people of the Rebel States whenever they are tired of this government may by a vote of all their citizens, without respect to color, except those disqualified from holding office by the constitutional amendment, elect delegates to a convention to vote for the state constitutions. When these constitutions are established upon the basis of impartial suffrage and ratified by the people and when the states then organized have adopted the constitutional amendment they shall be admitted to representation in congress—nor is there want of cause to hope that this result soon be reached for those provisions of the bill which will at once establish impartial suffrage will make the Freedmen equal participants in the work.” The bill was passed by Congress over the veto of President Johnson.

This bill made it illegal for many of the South’s finest men to hold office and the people were urged, “to bring out for governor and legislators the best men we have who did not hold office before the war. It is useless to elect ineligible. The consequences of doing so would be a lapse of whatever of state government is left us.”

Under the headlines “Register, Register, Register” of the June 15, 1867 issue of the Southern Messenger, we read, “Our frequent appeals to the readers of the Messenger on the importance of their registering may have become tiresome, but its importance must be our apology. The Registrars are now on the circuit of the beats and your last chance to put yourself on an equal footing with the negro is gliding from

under you. Do in the name of liberty and humanity come up and register. Many of the best and truest men in the country are disqualified—can't register. They are denied not only the liberty and freedom of free men, but they are debased below the level of the common corn field negro. Many of us (through mercy) are permitted to vote if we choose to register and then we may at least be equal to the free negro. It is believed every negro has come up to the scratch, scarcely an exception. The negroes are fully posted. No pains are being spared by the Radicals and negro sympathizers to enlighten them as to their right to vote after registration. In Pike County it is believed that there will be a very large majority (two to one) over the negroes and by prompt action our county can be saved from the domination of negroes and their sympathizers, a worse class of bipeds."

The Southern Messenger February 18, 1868 gives the following report "The election in this county passed off quietly and without any violence of any kind. 1,118 votes were cast, 520 whites, who all gave the constitution question the go by, save seven scalawags, and 498 blacks all of whom voted for the constitution, save five, but whose places were a little more than filled by the aforesaid scalawags, giving the constitution 500 votes against a fraction over 2,600 registered. Although the question of the constitution was ignored by the whites they voted for county officers and the following were elected:

For Representative	— John P. Hubbard
For Probate Judge	— Willis C. Wood
For County Judge	— H. S. Urguhart
For County Soliciter	— H. C. Wiley
For Sheriff	— W. H. Strickland
For Circuit Clerk	— T. K. Brantley
For Tax Assessor	— J. W. Satcher
For Tax Collector	— S. D. Wilson
For Treasurer	— J. P. Nall
For Commissioners	— S. B. Livingston, A. Somersett, William Ogletree, Sampson Faulk

For senator of the Senatorial District made up of the counties of Pike, Crenshaw and Covington, Honorable A. N. Worthy was elected without opposition. For Judge of the 8th Judicial Circuit, Honorable J. McCaleb Wiley."

Vote on the constitution in the general election falling below the

majority of the registered voters that instrument failed of ratification but later in the year 1868 the Radical Legislature dominated by the Black Man's party ratified the 14th Amendment and Alabama was readmitted to the United States. (The substance of the civil rights bill is included in this amendment.)

The Messenger and Advertiser of Pike County in its December 13, 1869 issue refers its readers to the proceedings of the legislature of that year, an assembly composed for the most part of incapable and untrustworthy white men and negroes who yielded to bribes, gave reckless legislation, ran the state into debt and crippled its business. The Messenger and Advertiser states: "We notice that Royal, the negro senator from Bullock, nominated Dr. Worthy for president of the Senate protem. A compliment which our senator very promptly declined and in turn put the sable senator in nomination for the same place. Concluding no doubt that he was more fit to preside over such a body, composed as it is of those who regard Royal as their social equal."

Pike County has always been very proud of the fact that it remained a white county during the entire Reconstruction period. Neighboring counties were not so fortunate. Bullock County had a negro sentaor and in one term of Circuit Court in Barbour County, presided over by Judge Wiley, there were eleven negroes and seven white men on the grand jury and a majority of blacks on the petit juries. But no negro ever held office in Pike or served on any jury.

The Troy Messenger of November 10, 1870 carried the following orders: Headquarters of U. S. Troops in Alabama, Montgomery, Alabama, October 31, 1870. To the Commanding Officers of Posts and Detachments in State of Alabama—In view of the approaching general election in the state, the following instructions are communicated for your guidance.

Upon your arrival at any designated point, you will inform the civil officers of your presence and of your readiness to assist them in the execution of the law. When called upon by competent authority you will furnish such of the force under your command as will enable them to enforce the law and you will support their authority by every measure in your power. Upon the day of the election you will take up a position with your command in view of the polls, but removed from the assemblage of voters. You will not permit any man of your command to enter the room where the ballots are deposited, nor under any circumstances to handle, distribute or dispose of the ballots. The

object of your presence is to prevent violence and intimidation to the voters or disturbance at the polls; and to this alone your action will be limited.

Should any violence be offered to the voters or attempt made to interrupt or disrupt the election you will prevent it at once by every means in your power. The duties devolving upon you are delicate and important and will require the exercise of utmost discretion and prudence, but I look to you to establish the fact to the people of Alabama that the United States troops in their midst are not partisans but in the highest degree conservators of and supporters of law and order.

In connection your attention is called to the provisions of the circular from the headquarters of the Department October 15, 1870 to the act to enforce the 15th amendment approved May 1870, a copy of which is enclosed. Signed: S. W. Crawford, Col. 2nd Inf. Brevet Major general commanding.

15th Amendment—Section 1. The rights of citizens of the U. S. to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of race, color or previous servitude.

The unpleasant relations existing between the north and south immediately after the war were intensified by the unwise policy of the United States in the mad determination to invest the negro with all the responsibilities of citizenship before he had adjusted himself to the new order of things. In his blindness and ecstasy the negro became the tool of vampires. He yielded to the temptation of politics and expected the general government to supply his wants, to give him "forty acres of land and a mule." Idleness, vagrancy, crime, insults, injury and threats followed in the wake of such conditions. Because of these conditions the Ku-Klux-Klan developed into regulators and assumed the duties of a vigilance committee. The Klan purposed good to all classes and gave protection to rights at a time when no other power would stay the evils. Wrongs followed of course and good people rejoiced when the Grand Wizard dissolved the Klan in 1869.

In Ku Klux Conspiracy Vol. 1—Alabama—we find an account of what must have been considered a conspiracy in Pike County. The John A. Minnis being examined by a sub-committee of the State Republican committee in Huntsville, Alabama October 6, 1871 was District Attorney of the United States for northern Alabama and the Mr. Buckley, referred to was Congressman from this (2nd) District,

a Republican, carpetbagger and of Freedman's Bureau notoriety, elected 1870.

Testimony taken by sub-committee of State Republican Committee: John A. Minnis sworn and examined. Place of residence—Montgomery, Alabama. Born in North Carolina. He testified that he made a canvas with Mr Buckley in part of district in the fall of 1870 in Pike, Dale, Coffee, Geneva, and Henry Counties. Had no difficulties except in Pike County. That they made speeches in Orion, with principally colored men present. A few white men stood over on a porch opposite where they were speaking. Mr. Buckley made his speech and the only disturbance was hollering over insulting language, things of that sort. Quote, 'I made a speech under the same circumstances, insulting remarks, nothing else until closing. I got through the argument and was addressing myself to the personnel of Governor Smith, when a man rode up on horseback and told me I must stop, waving a big stick, saying that that town belonged to the citizens and that they would not allow that to go any further. I just stopped a moment and spoke to him calmly, telling him I was nearly through, that I proposed to finish soon, that I had about concluded my argument and would have closed in five minutes if he had not interrupted me. He seemed to persist. Mr. Buckley, sitting in a buggy close by spoke to him. While we were talking some men came up and led the man off. When they went off they hollered to me to know where I would stay, said they wanted to lock their stables and things of that sort. That was the only disturbance at that place. A day or two afterward we met at Brundidge where there is a very considerable vote. I do not remember how much; which it was understood had never voted. When we got there we first drove up in a buggy where some men were in front of a store and asked if they could tell us where we could get our horse fed. They said they could not. We then drove out into a grove and hitched our horse and came back and Mr. Buckley told them what we had come for. They said they did not propose to have any speaking of that sort there. There was a number of them. We saw a few negroes standing around looking off and shy. Mr. Buckley reasoned with these men for some time, but they persisted in it. Yes, this is in Pike County; Yes, a notice of the meeting had been sent forward. Passing thro Troy I had an interview with Senator Worthy. He told me they were very hostile and very much opposed to that speaking, but that if I was along by myself, I, being a southern man, he thought they would hear me but being with Mr. Buckley I would not get any attendance. Mr. Buckley insisted on speaking, that he would not say anything to insult them.

They persisted we should not, and my recollection is that a doctor, whose name I forget now, who had a little drug store there made a remark something like this—that he knew we had a right to speak and they did not propose to interfere with us but that nobody would go to hear us—that he would like to see the man who would go to hear us speak. Pausing a moment he then remarked that no man could live ten days in that community who would go to hear us speak. Mr. Buckley came to me and asked what we should do. I told him rather laughingly that I had always found that there was luck in leisure, and we would stand around a while and see what would come off. After a while we started to get in our buggy and some men came up, two or three of them and said they wanted to hear us. Then some of the negroes came up and insisted we should hold a meeting and speak. They had a consultation but the crowd said we should not, saying that we had the right and nobody would violate that right, but that nobody would hear us. Some came to me and seemed to want to hear the speaking. I told them I had never before gone to a place where I could not speak and was not afraid to speak there—yet as my purpose was to allay excitement and not to create it I feared that if we undertook to make speeches and did not make speeches those who went to hear us would, when we left, bring themselves into such bad repute and bring such indignation on themselves that it would leave the neighborhood worse than we found it. So I left without speaking.” “How large was the crowd?” “About fifteen or twenty. I met a negro after leaving there and he told me the negroes had been notified not to go to that meeting. That they wanted to come to the speaking and vote the Republican ticket but they could not do it unless they slipped off to Troy.” “Did the doctor’s speech seem to meet the approbation of the people?” “Yes, sir. There was one old man who seemed to have a different sentiment, but some of them rather suspected him and threw out some rather insulting language. There was one particularly, a mechanic, who said he worked for his living and he did not intend to have speeches made to negroes, or that there never had been speeches made there to negroes and never would be.” “Did you notice if this crowd was armed?” “No sir, I did not.” “You made no speech, or Mr. Buckley.” “No sir, except in the way of talking to them as I have said.”

In November 1870 John P. Hubbard was re-elected as representative and served with distinction as Speaker of the House 1870-72. His opponent in the race was Robert E. Wood an independent candidate, a brother of Probate Judge Willis C. Wood. This campaign became so bitter that the Troy Messenger, after printing several articles written

by the candidates, had to refuse publication of parts of correspondence as too personal. Dr. A. N. Worthy was re-elected Senator.

In August 1871 at a meeting of the voters in Orion beat the following resolution was adopted: "Whereas, on account of the multitude of candidates for the several county offices to be filed at the November election, and whereas, it is our desire that our county should forever remain free from the vile pollution of Radical rule, we deem the only course success for the Democratic party is in united action and strict organization; Be it therefore resolved, that ten delegates be elected to meet other county beats in the city of Troy in September to nominate candidates to fill our county offices." The resolution was adopted. Other beats of the county adopted similar resolutions on September 7, 1871 a Democratic Convention was held in Troy for the purpose of electing nominees for the county offices. William H. Parks was made permanent presiding officer, and H. H. Goode secretary with S. D. Moore of Dixon's beat and C. W. Hilliard of Grimes beat assistant secretaries.

The meeting reported in the Troy Messenger follows: "Resolved each beat be allowed ten votes and that after the first ballot the lowest candidate be dropped and so on until the candidates receiving a majority of the whole convention be declared nominated. This resolution was adopted.

Upon motion of M. N. Carlisle Esq. the candidates were requested to submit their names to the convention, those absent vouched for by their friends. Mr. Goode made a motion that the convention vote by beats, each beat announcing its vote through a chairman. Mr. Gardner offered an amendment that each beat report its vote to the secretary instead of through a chairman. Mr. Goode's resolution as amended was adopted.

On motion the names of the candidates were called who submitted their claims with an unconditional promise to support the nominees of the convention. All the candidates for sheriff responded except Mr. Dennis Rogers, who submitted conditionally after the first ballot. Candidates were: Dennis Rogers, H. R. Segars, Josiah Wilson, L. Reeves, and John Hamil. After two ballots Mr. Segars was declared the nominee.

Ballot for Tax Assessor next in order. Candidates W. D. Henderson, M. C. Cooper, J. W. Satcher and J. C. Cade. Mr. Satcher was declared duly nominated.

Tax Collector next in order: Candidates J. R. Brown, Jesse Folmar, George A. Matthews, Josiah Harris, W. L. Hendrick, E. T. Critten, Thomas W. Ballard, J. D. Seals, Sam H. Adams, Tom Patton, and John Parson. Five ballots were necessary before a single candidate received majority, after which Mr. Thomas W. Ballard was duly nominated for Tax Collector. Next the ballot for County Treasurer was ordered, the candidates being John Hodges, Young Rainer and J. P. Nall. Captain Nall having received a majority of the votes cast was duly nominated as Treasurer. The convention then proceeded to the nomination of County Commissioners with the following men as nominees: William A. Griffin, James P. Belser, Brinkley Burkes and Jackson Cowart.

We hear it stated on all sides that it was one of the largest and most harmonious conventions ever held in the county. Fears were generally expressed that great trouble would be experienced in harmonizing the conflicting elements in the party, yet no such difficulty presented itself in the convention. During the nominations we failed to discover anything but perfect harmony and the announcement of the names of successful candidates was hailed with marked demonstrations of applause. The good order that prevailed on the square during the day is a splendid testimony to the peaceful, law abiding character of the people of good old Pike.

Though several independent candidates were in the race, in the following election all the nominees of the convention were elected to office. The Pike County Democratic and Conservative Committee at this time was J. R. Goldwaite, J. A. Henderson, J. D. Murphree, R. J. Higgins, J. D. Rhodes, J. P. Nall, W. R. Rice, N. W. Griffin, Bryant Wilson, T. K. Mullins, and Martin Enzor and J. P. Hubbard chairman.

From The Southern Messenger of March 25, 1867 we copy the following: "Extract from Judge H. D. Clayton's Charge to the Grand Jury."

After making an argument on figures taken from the tax books of the county showing how the negroes as laborers, although free still continue to contribute by their labor to the wealth and prosperity of the county. Judge Clayton proceeded:

"I doubt not, gentlemen, that in the course of time, these people will be supplanted by immigration from more populous countries of the East, but this will require time and the idea I desire to enforce is that it is our duty for the present at least, by kind and generous treatment and by fair dealings, to get their confidence and keep it, that

they will be useful to themselves and useful to us and useful to the country. I have briefly given you some of my views from the standpoint of pecuniary interest. The higher and nobler considerations you have no doubt seen in the public print. Heaven knows that toward these people, as an individual I have no reason for doing otherwise, and do entertain nothing but the kindest feelings. They who were my faithful slaves, are today with scarcely an exception my willing and faithful laborers. He who was the nurse of my childhood, the companion of my boyhood, for more than twenty years my slave and to whose care for five years I committed with perfect confidence my wife and little children, is the same faithful friend today. And so, too, of him who with a free pass in his pocket, shared with me the hardships of every campaign, and to whom on a score of battlefields I entrusted my purse and what might have been my last message to loved ones. I could not afford to part with them now for ten times the same they would have commanded as slaves; and I would deserve to be called an ungrateful wretch if I were to turn my back on them in this, their hour of trial, or withhold from them the words of friendly advice.

You will observe, gentlemen, that I have said nothing to you of the political condition of our country and I do not intend to except this—that is none of my duty as a judge or of yours as a grand jury. Upon that subject I desire to be strictly understood, that I neither advise you what to do, nor what not to do. We are here to enforce the laws, not to discuss the making of them. We are here for a particular, defined public duty, and as soon as you have done that, I will take pleasure in discharging you to your respective homes, and to labors doubtless more congenial to your tastes. Whatever conclusions may take place among the affairs of men, you may at least thank God that the same bright sun still shines in heaven above you, all around you still rise the same majestic hills; the rivers still roll their unending waters to the gulf and the same genial soil beneath your feet still hands forth its fruit to your industry. Remember His judgments are tempered with mercy and read this beautiful attribute of His character in the book of nature and revelation. And as you seek relief from your mental disquietude in the physical labor of your farms, remember it is written, “in the sweat of thy face thou shalt eat thy bread,” and thus the curse becomes a blessing—the penalty a mercy.”

REFERENCE MATERIAL USED IN THIS PAPER

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Ku Klux Conspiracies—Vol I—Alabama Library State Archives and History Department, Montgomery, Alabama

The New Practical Reference Library—Vol IV—Hanson-Bellows Company (Copyright 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912)

Pike County Alabama newspapers 1865 - 1875

Messenger-Advertiser

Southern Messenger

Troy Messenger

Two new counties were created by the State Legislature in 1866—Bullock and Crenshaw. Bullock was created out of portions of Montgomery, Pike, Macon and Barbour. Crenshaw was created out of portions of Butler, Lowndes, Montgomery, Pike, Coffee and Covington. This was opposed by Pike the main sufferer and the Southern Messenger of Pike County comments, "What has been done cannot be undone. We wish the people of Crenshaw and Bullock much joy and success in the establishment of their new homes."

During the late 1860's Pike Countians were interested in going to Brazil and glowing reports of the opportunities offered there were publicized. A letter from Mrs. J. E. Simpson states, "Free passage will be given to all emigrants who are unable to pay their passage to be returned to the government at a specified time." However in 1867 a letter to Dr. Ed Murphree from a friend in Brazil advises: "I would advise every man of family to stay at home if he cannot reach his destination with at least one thousand dollars in gold."

The main exodus from Pike County during those years was to Texas. Many editorials and articles were written discouraging this emigration and in the Southern Messenger of September 23, 1867 is printed part of a letter written by J. P. Darby from Montgomery, Texas to Sam Adams.

"Every time you buy anything you are swindled. Merchants as a class, prevaricate more than lawyers or horse traders.

Lands are cheap, but what do you mean by land? Dirt—dirt is as cheap here as anywhere, but dirt with a house on it will be found dearer in Texas than in Alabama. More than likely he will not have

five trees on his tract of land fit for house logs. Log rollings and house raisings are not paid for in Texas with a jug of whiskey and a pot of pie; they are paid for in gold.

Texas is a very sickly state all over for new comers, chills and bilious fever.

Texas is a lawless state. Behavior is no insurance of safety. I have heard of more cold blooded murders in Texas in the last twelve months than I have ever heard of in Alabama in all my life. Nine tenths of the people go to court, the mill, and the store house—everywhere with huge pistols buckled around them. O! They say that is only the custom. If my friends in Alabama do not believe my representations or cannot trust my judgement all I have to say is, walk in lemons and get squeezed. If they are determined to try the mus-tang, stinging lizard, horned frog, cotton-worm state I would advise them to go up as high as possible. Up about Dallas. That is the best part of the state."

Even after such reports as this, people continued leaving Pike County in search of greener pastures which they hoped to find in Texas. Rev. W. H. Biggs of Troy directed a party of emigrants to Texas. They left Troy on Christmas and reached their destination safely. The following families and members of families were in the party: Bradshaw, Wingate, Welch, Tucker, Hill, Lockard, J. W. Hartsfield, Simeon Post, Ward, Harris, Timothy Soles and Blackman. Their destination was seven miles from Brenham, two miles from Chapel Hill and ten miles from Washington.

In the January 6, 1870 edition of the Advertiser and Messenger headed "Exodus from Pike" we find an extract taken from the Mobile Register, written by their correspondent in Wilcox County telling of seeing at Clifton, Wilcox County, a number of wagons, horses, cows, men, women, and children in process of emigration and of learning that there is a large exodus going on chiefly from Pike County in this state and settling toward Texas. Reason given by immigrants that the Radical Legislature of the Commonwealth had made two counties out of one and that many inhabitants had determined rather than submit to the augmented taxation consequent upon this unnecessary subdivision to ex-Pike themselves and go to Texas. One of the beneficent results of carpet baggery. The Messenger Advertiser resented such a misconception and in a lengthy article under the heading "Register Correspondent at Fault" denied the statement that the county had been divided into two counties, that taxes in Pike ought to be

less than in any county in the state due to the fact that Pike County owed not a single dollar to her citizens or anybody else that could not be paid in green backs any day—as the grand jury reported. That there was not a Radical office holder of any hue in the county—that every white man had cast his vote for the standard bearer of the Democratic party against Buckley the head devil of the Freedmen's Bureau. The article closed with the following paragraph—"Our people are nearer out of debt, have the healthiest county, make the most cotton, have the prettiest women, the fattest plumpest babies, best Sunday schools and day schools, best neighbors, least fuss, more money, and the growingest town of any county in the State—to say nothing of our members of the legislature."

All Pike County was very much interested in railroads in the late sixties and early seventies. Many meetings were held in Troy and Montgomery for the purpose of studying the possibilities of having railroad service in the county. In 1869 a meeting was held in Montgomery to consider direct communication between Montgomery and Troy. The same year a meeting was held at Pine Level to study the feasibility of a line from Oak Grove to Troy and on December 20, 1869 a meeting was held in the Pike County Court House for the purpose of electing a delegate to the meeting of the stock holders of the Brunswick and Vicksburg Railroad which would traverse the county from east to west, a road to run from Brunswick, Georgia to Eufaula, westward to Meridian, Mississippi. But interest centered later in the possibility of Troy becoming the terminus of the Mobile and Girard Railroad—a line reaching from Columbus, Georgia to Troy a distance of 85 miles by way of Union Springs. This proposed project became a reality and June 2, 1870, The Messenger and Advertiser made the following announcement—"In a few weeks the Mobile and Girard Railroad will deposit passengers and freight at a depot within the city limits."

On June 16, 1870 The Messenger and Advertiser printed the following article—"Railroad Dinner"—"The Columbus Sun has rather gotten ahead of us in publishing an account of the dinner that our citizens gave the railroad men on the completion of the track to this city. Speeches were made by Hon. A. N. Worthy, Captain Vickers and contractor Ford, the latter persons being called upon to acknowledge the receipt of beautiful bouquets from the fair ladies of Troy. The dinner was good, the band dispensed sweet music, the speeches were short and spicy and everybody had a good time."

From the Messenger and Advertiser of Thursday, June 23, 1870

we copy this story, "The last rail has been laid and spiked and the first passenger train arrived in this city on Monday evening last, June 20, 1870. An excursion train from this city to Columbus will leave here on Tuesday morning next when the business men and city officials of Troy will be guests of the business men and officials of Columbus. No other passengers will board the train except specially invited guests. The following program is from the Columbus Enquirer:

"Our guests will arrive at ten o'clock a.m. on the 28th instant. They will be received by the mayor and council and Citizens Committee at the Broad Street Depot. The carriages and other vehicles which have been proffered by our citizens and stablemen will be used to convey our guests to their respective hotels. At one o'clock they will be conveyed to the passenger shed where dinner will be served at two o'clock. At five o'clock the Fire Department will be reviewed on Broad Street by the Municipal Authorities of Troy, Union Springs and Columbus. On the 29th our guests together with the Council and Committee will unite in a river excursion on the boats of the Central Line starting at seven o'clock a.m. and returning to the city in time for the evening train to Troy. It is expected our City Brass Band will enliven the occasion with their splendid music."

This program was carried out as planned and Troy became the nearest railroad communication for a large territory. On December 15, 1870, a new freight engine, *The Troy*, made its first trip. At a call meeting of the Board of Directors of the Mobile and Girard Railroad in June of 1871 the opinion was expressed that unless the road was leased or measures adopted for payment of bonds and interest due July 1st the road would have to go on sale and would probably be bought by the Central. Later the road became the Central of Georgia.

When the following editorial note was published in the Troy Messenger of January 4, 1871, there was much opposition to the movement. The item reads: "We are glad to learn that the Commissioner's Court has purchased a lot and taken the preliminary measures for the erection of a new Court House in this city, a thing very much needed, as the old one is insecure and badly located. We trust the work will commence at the earliest possible moment."

The opposition of the people of Darby's beat took form in a meeting held January 28, 1871 at Henderson's Store reported in the Troy Messenger of February 9, 1871: "In consequence of a recent engage-

ment of the Commissioners of Pike County to dispose of the Court House in the City of Troy and the Public Square upon which said Court House is located a large and respectable portion of the citizens of Darby's beat met at Henderson's Store January 28, 1871 for the purpose of expressing their wishes and feelings in relation to the project under contemplation. The meeting was organized by the election of T. J. Logan, Chairman, and S. P. Darby, sec. A committee was appointed to prepare a series of resolution—Brantley Darby, J. S. Perdue and John A. Law.

Resolution—Whereas it is the opinion of the citizens of this county that the Court House of this county is situated in the most beautiful, suitable and convenient part of the city of Troy and any removal of the same would of necessity be attended with costs that the county is at present unable to sustain therefore be it.

Resolved—That we a part of the citizens of Pike County are opposed to the destruction, sale or any other disposition that may be made of the Court House other than the disposition for which it was originally intended; and that we do especially request the commissioners of this county not to make any dispositions of such property by sale or otherwise without consulting the feelings of the voters of the county.

Resolved—That we are opposed to the sale of the Court House and the lot or Public Square upon which it stands for the express benefit of any party or parties of individuals or for the incorporation of the City of Troy.

Resolved—That we request all beats of the county to hold meetings to obtain the feelings of the tax payers in relation to this unnecessary waste and expenditure; and to appoint delegates to meet in convention in Troy, Ala. on the 3rd Saturday in February 1871 for the purpose of getting the true sentiments of the county relative to the propriety or impropriety of building a new Court House in a different part of Troy to where it now stands and the legality or illegality of the contemplated disposition of the old building.

Resolved—That we appoint ten delegates to meet the different beats in convention at the time and place designated.

Resolved—That we solicit the Troy Messenger to give publication to the proceedings of this meeting. On motion of H. M. Bradley the foregoing resolutions were unanimously adopted. The following gentlemen were appointed delegates to the convention: H. D. Cowart,

H. M. Bradley, S. P. Darby, J. H. Park, John R. Lawson, P. T. Tullis, S. J. Richbourg, E. Lewis, T. E. Hill, W. C. White, J. A. Law, Brantley Darby and J. S. Perdue—T. J. Logan, Chm., S. P. Darby, Sec.

Among Legislative Enactments approved March 8, 1871 was "An act to prohibit the assessment or collection of or the appropriation of a tax of Pike County by the commissioners for the erection of a court house." On December 15, 1875 there was a Special Term of Commissioners Court for the purpose of receiving the report of R. H. Lewis and others on Court House—"Considering what best be done with court house." Present J. H. Walters, W. L. Hendrick, J. S. Carter—U. L. Jones, presiding. Ordered old court house to be repaired. Contract let to Jerre Sanders at sum of \$450.00. Painting of court house (two coats inside and out, above and below painting of blinds, lights and seats to be let to E. Josiah Westcoat furnishing all material including glass, putty, etc. for lights)."

In the Circuit Court notes of April 13, 1871—Judge J. McCaleb Wiley, presiding we read, "The second day session was prolonged to a late hour and was devoted to the public examination for admission to the Bar of Mr. A. A. Wiley, son of Judge Wiley. Much complaint having been made against the private examination system, Judge Wiley has very wisely adopted a better plan as above stated. From many who were present we learn that Mr. Wiley passed a most excellent examination and comes to the legal profession with bright prospects of abundant success (Mr. Wiley was later Congressman from the 2nd District). A short time later, Mr. Frank Pennington was publicly examined and admitted to the practice of law having completed his studies in the office of Mr. N. W. Griffin.

One of the most disastrous fires in the history of Troy took place October 19, 1871. The fire started in a two story building on the northwest corner of Court Square occupied by Mr. J. D. Wadsworth, a grocer. With the wind blowing in a southeasterly direction over the adjoining buildings all of which, running to the other side of the square were of wood, in less than an hour eight of the buildings were in flames. By tearing down the store of R. H. Lane further progress of the fire was stopped, as there was a vacant lot on each side of the Lane store. It was at the two story store of Mr. A. T. Lockard where the fire was stopped and here the great battle to stop the flames was fought and the store saved by keeping the roof and sides covered with wet blankets and constantly showered with water from the buckets of the Hook and Ladder Company. The Court House was frequently in danger and the records were removed to a place of safety. One of

the heaviest losers of the fire was Mr. M. Conner who lost a new two story building. Other losers were Mr. J. S. Solomon whose extensive buildings were swept away in an hour with most of the contents saved; Mr. J. C. Cade and Mr. T. H. Auerbach owners of the Elephant Store; Mrs. M. V. Coleman, owner of a millinery shop; Dr. H. D. Boyd, dentist; Dr. F. H. Locke, Dentist; W. A. Crows, watchmaker and photographer; Mr. S. B. Schreiber, his own jewelry store and new store recently occupied by him a total loss; Mr. Adam Heisel, formerly of Eufaula, recently of Lumpkin, Georgia, shoemaker—store and stock a total loss; Mr. J. T. Beasley, proprietor of the Dime Bar, a complete loss. Mr. R. H. Lane saved a small part of his stock, the building belonging to the S. D. Smilie estate. There were great losses in goods hurriedly removed from other buildings. The fire was thought to be incendiary as no one slept in the Wadsworth building owned by Mr. L. B. Soles. The lesson taught by this terrible fire is one that was not unexpected. It shows us the importance of having a suitable fire engine and cisterns on the square. Item from the Messenger of October 26, 1871, "The Hook and Ladder Company with their truck draped in mourning made a fine appearance in their new uniforms—caps and shirts—Monday last. We understand they were presented by the City Fathers. The officers of the Hook and Ladder Company are—Foreman, W. H. Strickland; Asst. Foreman, R. H. Park; Treasurer, J. F. Hartsfield; Secretary, William Seeligsberg.

Note from Messenger March 16, 1871: "Our City Fathers have waked up on the Public Well question and Mayor Wilkerson is putting the water works in perfect order."

The Messenger of January 18, 1872 states that "new brick stores are replacing the burnt ones."

The Federal income tax is not a new tax. An income tax was levied by the North as a war measure in 1862 and extended into the early 1870's. After the close of the War Between the States the South was subject to this tax as seen by the following announcement: "*Last Call*—I will be at Troy, Ala. the 27th, 28th and 29th of June for the purpose of assessing and collecting the Income tax for 1866 and the License tax for 1867. All persons who have not paid the above tax are hereby notified that if they do not come up and be assessed and pay their tax the penalties of the law will be immediately enforced. This will be my last visit to Troy and is positively the last chance. Come up then, settle and save cost. M. H. Amerine ass't assessor, 8th District, 1st Division, Alabama.

As a result of many burdensome taxes imposed on the people of the South many plantations and homes were sold for taxes. Jan. 1, 1871 Mr. Simeon D. Wilson tax collector of Pike County advertised 253 pieces of property for sale for taxes. On the same date, 37 lots or parcels of land in the city of Troy were advertised. In 1867 many sheriff's sales were advertised in the local paper to satisfy creditors.

Five years later, the Troy Messenger of 1872 reports the organization of a Merchants Association of Pike County, a protective society organized with J. A. Henderson of the firm of Murphree and Henderson as President. William M. Jones of the firm of Jones and Corley was selected as Secretary and Treasurer. There were 26 members—a committee consisting of Col. E. B. Wilkerson, Hon. J. R. Goldthwaite and F. M. Jennington prepared rules and regulations which were adopted. As reported "The chief aim of the society is to protect its members from loss and imposition on the part of a class of men to be found in every community who are careless or indifferent about the payment of their just debts and obligations. The secretary of the society charged with the duty of securing from the members a list of their defaulters with such other information as may be deemed of importance in the same connection. All information to be recorded in a Book of Reference which, although kept in strictest privacy, will always be open for the inspection of members. Each member is required to furnish secretary with a full and correct list of such of his customers as have failed or refused to make satisfactory arrangements for the settlement of their accounts. All brother merchants in Pike County are cordially invited to join the association."

There were several flourishing schools in Pike County in 1871. In Troy there was a High School with Mr. R. W. Priest, Principal; Mrs. Mary Talbots, Select Shcool; Troy Female College, Prof. D. P. Hurley Principal, while Miss Callie Urquhart and Miss Lee Golson were in charge of the public schools. The Troy High School had the following advertisement in the Troy Messenger of February 6, 1871: "The Troy High School—R. W. Priest and Mrs. C. E. Priest. Tuition for the Winter and Spring Term, one half in advance. First classes—\$24.00, Second class \$32.00, Third class \$40.00. Incidentals \$3.00. During the present terms we propose to donate in Tuition, Two hundred dollars to poor children in the city, the beneficieries to be selected by the City Council."

In the same issue is an announcement of the opening of a mixed (boys and girls) school in Orion by Prof. John D. Sloan. Orion Institute under the charge of Prof. B. M. Bean and his sister was in "successful condition."

T. J. Carlisle was Principal and A. G. Dowdell assistant Principal of the Brundige Male and Female Institute. Miss Diamond, music teacher. Tuition, music including literary course, \$65.00. Use of an instrument, \$5.00. O. F. Knox was President of the Board, W. R. Pierson, G. C. Collier, William Barr, J. T. Copeland and James Hicks, Trustees.

The closing exercises of all the schools were very elaborate. Part of Mrs. Mary Talbot's closing exercises was a social party with the school room elaborately decorated. All minutely described in the Messenger. The closing exercises in most of the schools took the form of public examination with declamations and an address by a prominent citizen. The Spring Hill Institute, J. L. Foster, Principal, reported that the annual examination exercises of June, 1871 opened at 9 a.m. During the evening session the examinations were resumed, varied by declamations followed by an address by Hon. W. J. McBride. "The days exercises having terminated a number repaired to Center Point Academy, John Park, principal. The attendance was pretty good. The advent taken adjectively is peculiarly descriptive of fair division. The performances were very creditable and the various types didactic, comic and sentimental. Of the first mentioned kind, "The Bridal Wine Cup" a temperance sketch dramatized by Sidney Herbert was impressively enacted." The examination exercises of White Water Academy, Mr. William B. Darby, principal were witnessed with joy and satisfaction by the patrons and citizens of the community.

We take the program of the Pike County Teachers Institute to be held July 6, 7, and 8, 1871 from the Troy Messenger. "Should Corporal Punishment be Inflicted in Schools"—Miss M. W. Kelsoe and S. P. Barron. The utility of Public Examinations—Miss Callie Urquhart and W. B. Darby. The Propriety of Girls and Boys Associating in the Sports on the Playground—J. T. McCrary. Address—Prof. C. L. McCartha of the Union Springs Institute. Should Exhibitions be Encouraged and Practiced in Schools—F. J. Cowart and John A. Park. The Duties of Trustees—William H. Parks and J. M. Sanders. J. L. Foster, J. T. McCrary, S. P. Barron—Common Arrangements.

The church life of the county was carried on with interest during the recent reconstruction period. The Primitive Baptist, Missionary Baptist and Methodist being the strongest churches, though services were held by other denominations. Many revivals were held and as the results of the labors of Rev. Mr. Foster, the Evangelist, a Presbyterian Church was organized in Troy in 1871. Prof. D. P. Hurley

and Mr. E. C. McCaskill were elected elders. Father Maurry, pastor of the Roman Catholic Church in Montgomery lectured on the doctrines of his church at the Court House.

In the February 17, 1870 edition of the Messenger and Advertiser the editor comments, "Troy has the best Sabbath Schools in the State. The Baptist Sunday School has been continued during the whole winter and the Methodist reorganized their school on last Sabbath with a very full attendance."

On January 5, 1871 the following editorial, "It is a very injurious thing and one that should be discontinued, to hold services in churches without stoves or fireplaces. Health is and must be impaired by such imprudence. There is no necessity for it, as our citizens are abundantly able to put up stoves in both our churches. Let it be done at once. The Lord's House should be as well heated and as comfortable as our stores and dwellings."

One year later, 1872, the Messenger gives an account of the buying of stoves by the Methodist Church and a writeup of the comfort of the church since they were installed. The stoves were delivered free by the M&G Railroad. In the Troy Messenger of February 23, 1871 appears this item, "We wonder that some of our preachers do not have the good sense to see that long sermons which run into or beyond the Sunday dinner hour cannot but injure their reputation and lessen the number of their hearers. They should learn to use fewer words and more ideas."

March 22nd same year. "Services at the Baptist Church have been shortened to a reasonable length, singing improved, marked improvement in congregation all of which adds to the usefulness of the church. Rev. W. H. Carroll is the pastor."

The preachers fared poorly during reconstruction. The Messenger notes, "We see by the paper that Rev. J. W. Glenn of the Methodist Church in Clayton and Louisville has received \$73.00 of the \$1000 due him as salary. We hope he may get the other \$927, but fear it will be a good while coming." That same year the paper carried this notice, "Persons who have subscribed to the support of Rev. W. H. Carroll as pastor of the Baptist Church of this city can hand the amount of their subscriptions to Mr. William Murphree or Mr. John. Morgan."

In a letter to the editor of the Messenger from Elder Respass of Ellaville, Georgia, who had recently visited and preached at the Primitive Baptist Churches of the county we quote in part, "We cannot

forget the kindness of the brethren generally and especially those who put themselves to no little trouble for our comfort. They were William Rowe, Post, Sellers, Wilson Dykes, Adams, Davis, Hinson, Waters, Motes, and good old Father Galloway. We have as a people yet to learn to be content with food and raiment, to learn economy, to save the bits as you call them in Ala., to be satisfied with small gains and to make our living at home."

Under Local News, Mr. William M. Jones, Local Editor, we find many items of interest as the announcement of the marriage of Mr. W. B. Darby and Miss Molly F. Trotter at the residence of the bride's father in this county on November 27, 1869. "Billy is married, that is right, Billy deserved a wife just such as one as we think he has. We have the printer's highest evidence that all will be well with this newly married couple. They have paid the printer's fee, a whopping big cake. May there be as the fruit of this marriage an abundant crop to feed hungry printers on cake in days to come."

The edition of December 13, 1869 carries the account of the marriage of the publisher of the Messenger and Advertiser. "*Marriage*—On the night of the ninth instant at the residence of Mr. C. N. Carpenter, by the Rev. R. W. Priest, Mr. William J. Blan was married to Miss Julia A. Ballard, both of Pike County. Our pen must need be tipped with a most sparkling diamond and dipped in the waters of Bliss, ere we would attempt to do justice to this theme. We can but foretell a happy life to this couple, since the manliness, upright, straight forward honesty, steadiness and truth of our Publisher together with the beauty, grace, modesty, virtue and Christianity of the Bride form the chain which binds them. A chain strong in his strength, gentle in her gentleness and beautifully decorated with the roses of affection."

On February 3, this, "Married and Happy—Such seems to be the state of a couple of Africa's descendants who passed through our streets on the day after the wedding this week. The bride and bridegroom decked in suitable bridal garments such as a long white veil for the bride and white cotton gloves for bride and groom, were seated on a board placed across a wagon body, while a Negro girl on her knees did the driving. The driver whipped the mule, the groom eyed his bride and she eyed alternately himself and the flapping end of her bridal veil, and thus they went marching on."

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